

## Department of English &amp; Writing Studies

**Studies in Poetics**  
**English 2202G (001)**  
Winter 2019**Instructor:** Joshua Schuster  
[jschust@uwo.ca](mailto:jschust@uwo.ca) | UC 2422**Course Location:** Arts & Humanities  
Building 1B04**Office hours:** Wed. 12:30-1:20, Thurs  
11:30-1:20 or by appointment**Course Date/Time:** Wed 1:30-3:30 pm;  
Thurs 1:30-2:30 pm**Prerequisites:** At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020E or English 1022E or English 1024E or English 1035E or English 1036E or English 1042E or both of English 1027F/G and English 1028F/G, or permission of the Department.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Description

This course introduces students to some of the major poems in English literary history and the theoretical tools used to analyze poetics. We will be concentrating on doing attentive close readings of poems together, so class participation will be important. The poems we'll read are among the best that has been thought and said, so we'll get a chance to enjoy the poems while we bring out the nuances of each work. We'll also focus on developing skills in poetics, including understanding some of the basic poetical forms in English, meter and scansion, rhetorical terms used in literary analysis, and big questions about the politics and purposes of poems.

**Objectives:**

Successful students who complete the course will be able to:

- Develop close reading skills by reading some of the most celebrated poems written in English
- Define and apply key terms and concepts that are widely used in poetics analysis
- Understand how elements of form and content contribute to the meaning, sensation, and operation of a poem

Course Materials

Ferguson, Margaret, Mary Jo Salter, and Jon Stallworthy, eds. *The Norton Anthology of Poetry*. Shorter 5th edition. New York: Norton, 2004.

Adams, Stephen. *Poetic Designs*. Peterborough: Broadview, 1997.

### Methods of Evaluation

Midterm	20%	
Final	35%	
Participation	15%	
Final Paper	30%	(5 pages)

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>.

**Note:** computers are not allowed in this course.

**Final Paper:** Topics will be handed out in class. Late essays are not accepted. We will use OWL. Essays will be returned by OWL – be sure to read the comments.

**Midterm and Final Exams:** The format will include quote identifications, a few short answer questions, and (on the final exam) some short essays that will require you to compare different poets on a given topic.

**Participation:** Your participation is central to this class and is a key component of your growth as a student. Participation includes: being involved in class discussion, participating in group work, and putting real energy into all assignments and readings. **Read the texts before the day they are discussed.**

**Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory and obviously counts for your grade in participation. It is imperative to arrive to each class on time. No unexcused absences are permitted (I am not crazy and I do know that problems arise during the semester – but please supply a legitimate written excuse – see Western policy on this). If you miss a certain number of courses, I will warn you, but already you risk getting a zero in participation and/or dropped from the course.

**MLA Documentation:** Undergraduate research papers written in Arts and Humanities follow the formatting procedures outlined by the Modern Language Association. The complete guide to this format can be found in the latest edition of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th ed. (New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 2009). This guide can be found On Reserve in the D. B. Weldon Library, call no: LB2369.M57 2009. The Department of English also offers an overview of MLA documentation, at: <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergrad/guidelines.html>

**Western University Land Acknowledgment:** Western University is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lunaapeewak and Attawandaron peoples, who have longstanding relationships to the land and region of southwestern Ontario and the City of London. The local First Nation communities of this area include Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee Delaware Nation. In the region, there are eleven First Nation communities and a growing Indigenous urban population. Western values the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original peoples of Turtle Island (North America).

Timetable

Jan. 9 – Introduction; What is poetry?

Gwendolyn Brooks “We Real Cool”

Thomas Wyatt “My Lute Awake!”

Jan. 10 – Line and Stanza

William Blake “Ah! Sun-Flower”

Emily Dickinson [“The Heart asks Pleasure – first –”]

A. R. Ammons “Corsons Inlet”

Adams, “Stanza and Form” (71-84)

Jan. 16 – The Sonnet

William Shakespeare, sonnets 18, 29, 73, 116, 129, 130

John Donne “I am a little world made cunningly,” “Batter my heart, three-personed God”

Stephen Adams “The Sonnet” (88-92)

Jan. 17 – William Wordsworth “The World Is Too Much with Us”; Emma Lazarus “The New Colossus”

Jan. 23 – The Ode

Ben Jonson “To Penshurst”

John Keats “Ode on a Grecian Urn”

William Carlos Williams “The Red Wheelbarrow”

Adams “The Ode” (101-3)

Jan. 24 – Walt Whitman “Crossing Brooklyn Ferry”

Jan. 30 – The Elegy

Thomas Gray “Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard”

Alfred Tennyson “Break, Break, Break”

W. H. Auden “In Memory of W. B. Yeats”

Jan. 31 – Frank O’Hara “The Day Lady Died”

Adams “Figures of Speech” (105-132)

Feb. 6 – The Pastoral

Christopher Marlowe “The Passionate Shepherd to His Love”

Sir Walter Raleigh “The Nymph’s Reply to the Shepherd”

Andrew Marvell “The Mower against Gardens”

Wordsworth “Lines Composed a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey”

Feb. 7 – W. B. Yeats “The Lake Isle of Innisfree”

Elizabeth Bishop “Filling Station”

Joni Mitchell “Woodstock” (handout)

Adams “Figures of Speech” (132-147)

Feb. 13 – The Dramatic Speaker

John Donne “A Valediction Forbidding Mourning”

Andrew Marvell “To His Coy Mistress”

Robert Browning “My Last Duchess”

Feb. 14 – T. S. Eliot “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock”

Feb. 27 – **midterm**

Feb. 28 – Meter and Rhythm

George Herbert “Virtue”

Edgar Allan Poe “Eldorado”

Adams (Ch. 1, 1-36)

March 6 – Ballad Meter

Early Modern Ballad “Sir Patrick Spens”

Christina Rossetti “Song”

Keats “La Belle Dame Sans Merci”

Emily Dickinson #340 (“I felt a funeral, in my brain”)

Adams (37-43)

March 7 – Ekphrasis

W. H. Auden “Musée des Beaux-Arts”

March 13 – Metrical Variations

Milton “L’Allegro,” “Il Penseroso”

e. e. Cummings “[anyone lived in a pretty how town]”

Adams, “Beyond Iambic Pentameter” (50-61)

March 14 – Free Verse

William Carlos Williams “Danse Russe”

Gertrude Stein “Susie Asado”

Sylvia Plath “Lady Lazarus”

March 20 – More Metrical Variations

Philip Sidney “The Old Arcadia”

Dylan Thomas “Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night”

Wallace Stevens “Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird”

March 21 – Langston Hughes “The Weary Blues”

Sterling Brown “Slim in Atlanta”

March 27 – Lyrical Occasions

Wordsworth “I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud”

S. T. Coleridge “Kubla Khan”

Emily Dickinson “My Life had stood – a Loaded Gun –”

Gerard Manley Hopkins “The Windhover”

March 28 – John Ashbery “Paradoxes and Oxymorons”

Philip Larkin “This Be the Verse”

Charles Bernstein “Thank You for Saying Thank You” (handout)

April 3 – Political Poetries

William Blake “London”

P. B. Shelley “Ozymandias”

Adrienne Rich “Diving into the Wreck”

Terrance Hayes “The Golden Shovel”

April 4 – Allen Ginsberg “A Supermarket in California”

Theodore Roethke “Root Cellar”

April 10 – review – **final paper due**

### Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at [http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).

### **Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):**

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf)

### Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

### **Plagiarism:**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

### **Plagiarism Checking:**

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

### Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.