

## 2202G – Studies in Poetics – Winter 2021

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Office: UC 2422  
Office hours: by appointment  
Room: online  
Delivery type: online and synchronous

Course hours: Wed 6:30-9:30  
TA:  
TA Office:  
TA Office Hours:

**Prerequisites:** At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020-1999 or permission of the Department.

**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.

### Course 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

### Grading

Midterm	15%
Podcast	10%
Final	35%
Participation	15%
Final Paper	25% (5 pages)

**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.

**Note:** This course is designed as online and synchronous.

#### Academic Consideration for Missed Work

Students who are temporarily unable to meet academic requirements (e.g. attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) may submit a self-reported absence form online (available on your Student Center) provided that the absence is 48 hours or less and the other conditions specified in the Senate policy are met. Students can self-report only two absences per academic year. See policy here:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/Academic\\_Consideration\\_for\\_absences.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf).

Students whose absences are expected to last longer than 48 hours, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a Student Medical Certificate (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds) to Academic Counselling. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. The Student Medical Certificate is available online at

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

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism constitutes an automatic failure of this course and goes on a student's permanent record of conduct. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please contact me.

The following is a statement on plagiarism that has been mandated by the UWO Senate: "Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage of text 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 offense (see Scholastic Offense Policy in the Western Academic Calendar). Plagiarism checking: The University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking. Students may be required to submit their work in electronic form for plagiarism checking."

**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: <https://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.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).

### **Texts**

Ferguson, Margaret, Mary Jo Salter, and Tim Kendall, eds. *The Norton Anthology of Poetry*. 6th edition. New York: Norton, 2018.