

Department of English & Writing Studies

Studies in Poetics (draft syllabus)

2220G (001) Winter 2026

*Western University is located on the lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee,
Lūnaapéeewak, and Attawandaron peoples.*

Course Prerequisites: At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020-1999, or 1.0 of Film 1000-1999 plus [English 2112F/G](#), Film 2212F/G, or [Theatre Studies 2212F/G](#), or permission of the department. Unless you have either the prerequisites 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.

Antirequisite(s): [English 2230F/G](#).

Course Description

This course introduces students to a diverse selection of poets and poetry across historical periods. We will get hands-on and technical with poems in our examination of the primary components of poetry: meter, rhyme, and rhetorical figures of speech. We will investigate influential poetic genres, such as the sonnet and the ode, to consider their historical evolution. In our weekly discussions, we will use our developing prosodic, generic, and theoretical skills to support thoughtful reading and writing about poetry. The understanding of the art of poetry that this course offers will (I hope) give students the confidence to enjoy poetry as a lifelong pleasure.

Objectives

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

Analyse poetry written in a range of styles and forms

Understand historical developments in poetics

Develop oral- and close-reading skills

Use and define key terms and concepts used in poetic analysis

Identify and discuss influential poetic forms and genres

Read and approach poetry with confidence and pleasure

Required Course Materials

Susan Holbrook, *How to Read (and Write About) Poetry*, 2nd edition. Broadview, 2022. (\$33.65)

[ENG 2202 Custom Link](#)

Students are welcome to purchase second hand copies of this edition.

Available through the Western Bookstore as **print** copies only and in the edition listed. You will be required to bring your text to every class. Laptop/device use in this class will be limited, and you will not have regular access to screens. (see Technology Use below) The mid-term test and final exam will be open book. You will be permitted to bring the print copy of *How to Read (and Write About) Poetry* to the test and exam, with any notes you have made in the margins.

If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the [OWL Brightspace Help](#) page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

Methods of Evaluation

The grade for the course will be arrived at as follows:

Group Assignments (in class)	15%
*Mid-term Test (in class)	25%
†Essay (1500-2000 words)	25%
Final Exam (3 hours)	<u>35%</u>
	100%

*Exempt from undocumented academic consideration.

† Flexible deadline; not eligible for undocumented academic consideration.

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>.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**Technology Use**

Please keep the classroom technology free. Please put away all laptops, iPads, cellphones, and other gadgets, except when expressly permitted. If you have legitimate need for any of these items (on an ongoing or specific basis), please talk to me.

Course Ethos

Our class will honour the principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion. We will use each other's preferred and chosen names and pronouns; we will engage in respectful and generous conversation with each other; we will avoid language that is hurtful, violent, or exclusive. My goal is to create an atmosphere of trust, community, and mutual responsibility, where each of us can feel heard and respected. Please feel welcome to talk with me if you have any concerns.

Email

I check email on a regular basis Monday to Friday, and will respond to emails within 24-48 hours. I will always reply to your email, so if you haven't heard back from me, please send your email again. Please do not expect an immediate response from me on weekends.

Submission of Assignments

Essays must be submitted through the OWL Brightspace Assignments tab as Word docs ONLY. Please do not submit .pdfs.

Be sure to keep a copy of all assignments submitted as well as your research notes.

Late Assignments

If you submit a paper after the final day of the flexible deadline, the paper will be counted as late, and the following procedures will apply:

1. The paper will not be read until all previous assignments have been read and marked, and depending on the extent of the lateness, may be returned at a later date.
2. A grade will be given, but no (or minimal) comments or corrections will be provided.
3. The grade will be reduced by a penalty of two marks (2%) for each calendar day (including weekends) that it is late.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory in all classes and tutorials. In cases of excessive absenteeism (e.g. more than 9 unexcused hours for a half course, 18 for a full course), which are not accounted for by either academic consideration or accommodation, students may be debarred from taking the final examination, and will receive an official warning to this effect by or before the course drop date (see Senate policy). In classes with or without final exams, students who do not attend class will receive 0% for course participation grades.

Academic Consideration

Students may request academic consideration in cases of extenuating circumstances – that is, personal circumstances beyond the student's control that have a **substantial but temporary** impact on the student's ability to meet essential academic requirements.

1. Requests for academic consideration are made to the Academic Advising office of the student's Faculty of Registration.
2. Requests for academic consideration include the following components:
 - a. Self-attestation signed by the student;
 - b. Indication of the course(s) and assessment(s) relevant to the request;
 - c. Supporting documentation as relevant.

Requests without supporting documentation are **limited to one per term per course**.

Instructors may designate one assignment or assessment as exempt from this allowance.

Assignments with flexible deadlines and any term work that does not count towards the course grade are **not** eligible for additional consideration.

Documentation for medical illness, when required, includes the completion of a [Western Student Medical Certificate \(SMC\)](#) or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation, by a health care practitioner.

Requests linked to examinations scheduled by the Office of the Registrar during official examination periods as well as practice laboratory and performance tests typically scheduled in the last week of term **always** require formal supporting documentation.

For procedures on how to submit Academic Consideration requests through the Student Absence Portal, please see the information posted on the Office of the Registrar's webpage:

https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/index.html

All requests for Academic Consideration must be made within 48 hours after the assessment date or submission deadline.

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation%20disabilities.pdf

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519-661-3030 (during class hours) or 519-433-2023 after class hours and on weekends.

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays and should give reasonable notice in writing (email), prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the Western Multicultural Calendar.

Statement on Gender-based Sexual Violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/studentsupport/survivorsupport/get-help.html>. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Student 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/>

Academic Support and Engagement <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Scholastic Offences, including Plagiarism

Scholastic Offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, which can be found here: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

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 offence. This includes unapproved and unacknowledged use of AI tools (which are not permitted in this course; see below)

All coursework 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 Western 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.

AI Technologies

In this course, the use of AI (such as automatic translation tools, grammar checkers, ChatGPT, etc.) is **prohibited at any stage** of the writing process. Using these tools will be considered to be in violation of Western's Academic Integrity Policy. If AI use is suspected, I will ask you for notes, rough drafts, outlines, and any other materials used in preparing assignments. Students are expected to retain these materials until after final grades have been entered.

To put it more positively: I value *your* thoughts, research, and writing. A primary goal of this class is to support and encourage you to strengthen those critical and creative skills through in-class participation and written assignments. AI can introduce mistakes, make up sources, and reinforce stereotypes. It is harmful to the environment, sucking up land and water and energy. It creates writing that is void of personality and that is antithetical to the intellectual process and practice. *Your* perspectives are unique. The AI is a derivative machine. I am always happy to meet with you to chat about your ideas and your writing. Please talk to me, not Chat GPT!

Intellectual Property/Copyright

All instructor-written materials (e.g. PowerPoints, lecture notes, oral lectures) for this course are created solely for students' personal use within the course, and remain the instructor's intellectual property. Further reproduction, fixation, distribution, transmission, dissemination, communication, or any other uses, without securing the consent of the copyright owner (the course instructor) may be an infringement of copyright. You may not distribute, email, or otherwise communicate these materials to any other person. These limitations extend to recording, photographing, or sharing lectures (online or in-person) and lecture material without permission. Posting the instructor's content from this course to online course sharing sites like OneClass or Course Hero without permission is both an infringement of intellectual property law and a violation of academic integrity guidelines. The instructor will pass these cases on to the Western University Ombudsperson or their Department Chair as appropriate.