

**ENGLISH 104:
INTRODUCTION TO POETRY**

**SPRING 2008
12–12:50 MWF**

DR. SYRINE C. HOUT

**Office Hours: W 2-3 and F 11-12 and by appointment
201 Fisk Hall; ext. 4118; e-mail: sh06@aub.edu.lb**

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course focuses on major poets and subgenres of poetry from various periods, beginning with the Middle Ages and ending with postmodernism. Among the major subgenres which will be studied within their own literary and socio-historical contexts are the traditional ballad, the dramatic monologue, the sonnet, the short lyric, the ode, the elegy, the pastoral, verse satire, and free verse.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. to delineate the major phases in the evolution of this genre.
2. to list the major characteristics of each of its major subgenres.
3. to contextualize historically the specific subgenres.
4. to relate the development of certain poetic features or conventions to larger intellectual trends and historical movements such as the Enlightenment, Romanticism, Victorian scientism, industrialism, modernism, and post-modernism.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

Attendance: 10%; Oral Participation: 15%; Quiz 1: 20%; Quiz 2: 20%; Final Exam: 35%

ATTENDANCE POLICY: More than 6 unexcused absences might result in automatic withdrawal.

READING ASSIGNMENTS (poems) will be placed in a folder to be purchased.

WEEKLY READINGS:

February:

M, 11: Course Introduction

W, 13: “The Twa Corbies”

F, 15: “Edward”

M, 18: Thomas Wyatt, “Forget Not Yet”

W, 20: John Donne, “The Canonization”

F, 22: John Suckling, "Song"

M, 25: Christopher Marlowe, "The Passionate Shepherd to his Love"

W, 27: Walter Raleigh, "The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd"

F, 29: Ben Johnson, "Song, To Celia"

March:

M, 3: Andrew Marvell, "To his Coy Mistress"

W, 5: Edmund Spenser, "One Day I Wrote Her Name Upon the Strand"

F, 7: William Shakespeare, Sonnet # 18

M, 10: Shakespeare, Sonnet # 116

W, 12: John Milton, "On his Blindness"

F, 14: Thomas Grey, "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard"

M, 17: **QUIZ # 1**

W, 19: Jonathan Swift, "A Satirical Elegy on the Death of a Late Famous General"

F, 21: *Latin Easter Break*

M, 24: *Latin Easter Break*

W, 26: **Discussion of Quiz # 1**

F, 28: William Blake, "London"

M, 31: William Wordsworth, "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud"

April:

W, 2: Wordsworth, "The World is Too Much with Us"

F, 4: Lord Byron, "She Walks in Beauty"

M, 7: Byron, "The Say that Hope is Happiness"

W, 9: Percy Bysshe Shelley, "Ode to the West Wind"

F, 11: John Keats, "When I Have Fears that I May Cease to Be"

M, 14: Keats, "Ode on a Grecian Urn"

W, 16: Alfred Tennyson, "Ulysses"

F, 18: Robert Browning, "To My Last Duchess"

M, 21: **QUIZ # 2**

W, 23: Christina Rossetti, "Cobwebs", "A Birthday"

F, 25: *Greek Orthodox Easter Break*

M, 28: *Greek Orthodox Easter Break*

W, 30: **Discussion of Quiz # 2**

May:

F, 2: Matthew Arnold, "Dover Beach"

M, 5: Rupert Brooke, "The Soldier"

W, 7: W.B. Yeats, "When You Are Old", "No Second Troy"

F, 9: Louis MacNeice, "Star-Gazer"

M, 12: Dylan Thomas, "Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night"

W, 14: Thom Gunn, "Black Jackets"

F, 16: Sylvia Plath, "Daddy"

M, 19: John Hollander, "Skeleton Key"

W, 21: Audre Lorde, "Coal"

F, 23: Ishmael Reed, "beware: do not read this poem"

M, 26: Margaret Atwood, "Spelling"

FINAL EXAM: TBA