

English 218: Poetry

Ms. Jennie Youssef

MTWRF 12:30pm-1:30pm

Office Hours: T 10:00am-11:30am

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Overview:

“Poetry is when an emotion has found its thought and the thought has found words.”

-Robert Frost

Reading and understanding poetry can be more demanding and frustrating than other forms of literature – but it doesn’t have to be. Poems, whether they are short or long, whether they are written in free or rhyming verse, can be powerful enough to evoke complex emotions and stimulate the imagination and intellect. This course will focus on the works of poets of various nationalities and span across different historical periods. Through close reading and class discussion, students will learn how to identify different stylistic devices used in poetry as well as various poetic forms.

Student Learning Outcomes:

After completing this course, students will be able to:

- Identify the various elements of poetry, such as tone, form, genre, imagery and other forms of figurative language, theme, etc.
- Recognize rhyme scheme, meter, syntax and other elements of poetic structure.
- Identify a variety of forms and genres of poetry.
- Read, understand and respond to poetry.

Textbook:

Readings will be distributed weekly via email. It is your responsibility to download and bring them to class.

Assignments:

Assessed work will take the form of a weekly response journal, one mid-term exam and a final exam. There is also a participation component to your final grade.

Grading:

Journal (25%) + Mid-term (25%) + Final (30%) + Participation (20%) = Grade (100)

The substantial “participation” segment expresses the importance of continuous in-class engagement as well as private study for developing your critical approach to poetry. This

component of the grade will take into account punctuality, attention to colleagues and instructor, evidence of preparation, and, above all, frequency and thoughtfulness of discussion contribution.

Policies

DO bring to class: Readings, paper, writing implement.

DO NOT bring to class: Switched-on mobile phone or other electronic devices.

The courses will be administered in conformity with the University Catalogue and Student Handbook. This course depends on the exchange and development of ideas and arguments in seminar and your attendance is required; repeated and unexcused absence will result in an automatic fail. It depends equally – as does all humanistic study – on the unique encounter of your individual mind with the text. All work must be original and must correctly cite any external sources on which you rely. Instances of academic dishonesty will be automatically reported to the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, so be sure to familiarize yourself with the policies surrounding plagiarism and cheating and ask in advance if you have questions.

M 30/5 Introductions

T 31/5 *Come In* Robert Frost

W 1/6 *The Poison Tree* (Blake); *The Arrow and the Song* (Longfellow)

R 2/6 *Love and Hate* (Siddal); *My Last Duchess* (Browning)

F 3/6 *Song 74* (Wroth); *The Passionate Shepherd to His Love* (Marlowe)

M 6/6 *The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd* (Raleigh); Activity session.

T 7/6 *Dreams* (Bronte); *Stanzas Written in Dejection* (Shelley)

R 8/6 *Sonnet 120* (Shakespeare); *Sonnet 54* (Spenser)

F 9/6 *Delight in Disorder* (Herrick); *My love is like to ice, and I to fire* (Spenser)

M 13/6 *How Soon Hath Time* (Milton); Activity Session

T 14/6 *Invictus* (Henley); *To an Athlete Dying Young* (Housman)

W 15/6 *Baby Tortoise* (Lawrence)

R 16/6 *Ode on a Grecian Urn* (Keats)

F 17/6 *Ulysses* (Tennyson)

M 20/6 DRAMATIC READINGS

T 21/6 DRAMATIC READINGS

W 22/6 *Death and Fame* (Ginsberg)

R 23/6 *The Emperor of Ice-Cream* (Stevens); *The House Was Quiet and the World Was Calm* (Stevens)

F 24/6 MIDTERM EXAM

M 27/6 Activity Session

T 28/6 *The Season Songs – Spring & Summer*

W 29/6 *The Season Songs – Fall & Winter*

R 30/6 *Glory of Women* (Sassoon); *Dulce Et Decorum Est* (Owen)

F 1/7 *The Soldier* (Brooke); *Here Dead Lie We Because We Did Not Choose* (Housman)

M 4/7 *The Darkness* (Lord Byron)

T 5/7 EID AL FITR

W 6/7 EID AL FITR

R 7/7 EID AL FITR

F 8/7 Activity Session

M 11/7 *Jordan II* (Herbert); *The Mind is an Enchanting Thing* (Moore)

T 12/7 *Snakes* (Ramnujan)

W 13/7 *Portrait d'Une Femme* (Pound)

R 14/7 *Portrait of a Lady* (Williams)

F 15/7 JOURNALS DUE

M 18/7 Activity Session

T 19/7 FINAL EXAM