Introduction to Poetry

Other materials provided in class or on Blackboard Course Site

Course Goals: English 106 is a freshman-sophomore level course designed to enhance your knowledge and understanding of poetry written in English. We will examine poems closely and analyze their words, form, meaning, tone, purpose, imagery, sound, and more. The course offers you problem-solving and analytical experience within a literary context. It gives you an opportunity to work closely with language and its ambiguities, limitations, effects, and accomplishments. You will be encouraged to speak in class and participate in learning activities. Writing assignments (formal and informal; analytical and creative) will challenge you to analyze, interpret, reflect, create, and explore poetry's potentials and demands, and ask you to provide evidence from textual materials to support your interpretive assertions. Homework assignments, quizzes, papers, short writings, and exams will test your careful reading, your ability to present evidence logically and write clearly, your mastery of literary terms your ability to apply knowledge and practice reading poetry in new contexts.

Planning for Success: 1) Read, Reread, Reread some more: read and reread without distractions, focusing, thinking, reflecting, rethinking, inquiring, investigating each poem; read aloud, reread aloud, listen to the sounds of poetry; take the poem apart; put it back together; read. 2) Because our class will be conducted with an emphasis on discussion, punctuated by occasional short presentations, prepare readings listed on the schedule before class. 3) Take good and comprehensive notes on reading and class discussions. Aside from giving you practice absorbing detailed information in a way that reflects the kind of concentrated listening you will be expected to do on any job after college, good note-taking helps you learn and helps you prepare for papers and exams. Concepts, themes, terms, background information, images, objects, and details from our close readings and discussion may appear on exams. Creating your own extensive note archive is the best way to reinforce the learning you are doing in class and on your own outside of class. Only you can take notes that will hold the best and most accurate meanings for yourself. If you have questions about preparing for class or taking notes, please be sure to speak with me. 3) Always bring texts/readings to class. 4) Prepare short writing assignments conscientiously. 5) Begin your formal papers early enough that you can let your ideas “cook” and have time for revision and editing. Multiple drafts and “re-visions” are proven strategies for success with any formal writing assignment at the University or on the job. 6) Attendance, active preparation and participation are central to success in our course.
**Requirements:**

-- Quizzes, in-class/out-of-class assignments 25%
-- Explorations writing poetry (investigating from inside the art) 10%
-- Two formal papers 20% each
-- Final Exam 25%
-- Attendance and steady participation required
-- As in the world beyond the University, all work should be completed on time, and all requirements, including regular attendance and preparation, must be completed to Pass this course, whether you take the course for a grade or P/NP.
-- The lowest quiz score will be dropped; quizzes and in-class work cannot be made up except when students are away on official university business (i.e., music, debate, dance or athletic events organized by and sponsored by the UO). Illness will not usually be a reason to make up quizzes. Extended illnesses/absences usually warrant withdrawal from the course.
-- The Final exam will only be given during the university's scheduled time, except in accord with UO policy. Be sure to plan your Spring break around our official final exam time. This should not be an issue since our exam time is 8-10 a.m. Monday March 17th.

**BLACKBOARD SITE:** Announcements, the syllabus, assignments, and other important course information will be available throughout the term on Blackboard. Be sure to check our Blackboard site regularly for updates and announcements.

**CLASS POLICIES:**

*Classroom etiquette:* Please turn off all electronics before class begins. No electronics in class sessions please; this class asks you to exercise your own grey matter during discussion.

*Students with disabilities:* If you have a disability, please see me during the first week of the term so we can make appropriate accommodations for your full access to all course activities and requirements. All accommodation requests require students be registered with the UO Office for Students with Disabilities.

*Class Discussions and Lectures* may not be copied or recorded in any manner unless you have documented a communication-related disability with the University and have received permission from the course instructor. Should you miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain notes from your colleagues, so be sure to get to know others in the course who would be willing to help you and whom you would be willing to help. Missing class should, however, be a rare event.

*Tutorial help:* Students may use the UO's Teaching and Learning Services (TLC), in 68 PLC (X6-3226), or seek assistance from the professor (laskaya@uoregon.edu). Any other assistance you receive on papers, from organizing your paper to identifying your main points, from proofreading to editing or revising papers, must be cleared with the professor. However, as you work to understand readings, discussions, and/or lectures, reviewing with your classmates outside of class is encouraged; this is different from directly assisting one another with a specific assignment.
**Academic Integrity**: The UofO values academic honesty. You are here because you clearly have the ability to engage with rigorous intellectual work. Our Code can be found on the UO website: [http://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/StudentConductCode/tabid/69/Default.aspx](http://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/StudentConductCode/tabid/69/Default.aspx) and is also available in pamphlet form from Oregon Hall.

Formal Papers assigned for this course will be analytical and will not require extensive research. You may find yourself curious about something or may want more information at times; great--read on, and *bravo* for curiosity! However, no student will receive higher grades simply because he or she has used research in papers or exams. See the University’s Conduct Code and our own UO library's website for definitions of plagiarism and for information on documentation should you need it: [http://library.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/index.html](http://library.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/index.html) Feel free to see me should you have any concerns. An honest and obvious effort to document is far more important for your grade than commas, abbreviations, or 'correct' formatting.

**Course policy on Academic Integrity**: All work submitted in this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, and paraphrases) beyond our class activities, presentations, and discussions must be properly documented. In other words, rely on your own grey matter, and wrestle well, yourself, with the course texts and materials. Protect the integrity of your own work and others’. In cases of established plagiarism or cheating, a final course grade of “F” will be recorded, and all incidents will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct, as required by University Policy.

**SCHEDULE** subject to change. **Additional materials and assignments will be posted on BB that are not listed here. Check Blackboard regularly; find details for assignments, papers, schedule, course requirements on BB as the term unfolds. Unannounced quizzes and short writings are not listed here, nor are the exploratory creative assignments.**

**WEEK One**
- **TU 1/7** Introductions to course and one another; in class writing
- **TH 1/9** Intro : pp. 1-16

**Week Two**
- **TU 1/14** Intro: pp. 16-26 1st hmwk
- **TH 1/16** Chap 1: 27-37 top Quiz #1

**Week Three**
- **TU 1/21** Ch 1: Poems about Families, pp. 37-53 2nd hmwk option
- **TH 1/23** Ch 2: 68-81 2nd hmwk option

**Week Four**
- **M 1/27** Paper #1 due via Blackboard
- **TU 1/28** Ch 3: 93-105
- **TH 1/30** Ch 4: 129-148 Quiz #2

*From here on the schedule may change. How fast we move through material will be established given the needs of our particular class.*
Week Five
U 2/4    Ch 4: pp. 153-157; 165-173 top; 183-192 3rd hwk
H 2/6    Ch 4: 'Diving into the Wreck,' 'The Town Dump,' 'My Ravine'  
*In-class presentations.*

Week Six
U 2/11   Ch 5: Sound 199-214 in class activity
H 2/13   Ch 5: 219-230 *Quiz #4*

Week Seven
M 2/17   **Paper #2 due**
U 2/18   Chapter 6 231-254
H 2/20   Chapter 7 255-289 selections tba

Week Eight
U 2/25   Ch 8 290-301
H 2/27   Ch 9 303-316; Frost p. 321

Week Nine
U 3/4    Ch 9 Bishop, 321-337
H 3/6    TBA

Week Ten
U 3/11   TBA
H 3/13   TBA and Review for Final Exam

**Final Exam:** Monday, March 17th, 8:00-10:00 a.m. in our regular classroom.

NB: This schedule may change. Some readings may be assigned (provided in class or on Blackboard). Find full details for assignments, schedule, course requirements on Blackboard.