Course Description: Students in this seminar will read, analyze, and discuss the major poems of three twentieth century American poets, Robert Frost, Wallace Stevens, and Elizabeth Bishop.

Papers, Presentations, and Exams: Each Tuesday (except Oct. 23 and Nov. 20), students will hand in a 2-3 page analysis of one of the poems assigned for that class period. Students will also be responsible for two in-class presentations: one on a poem assigned to the entire class, another on a poem not included on the syllabus.

Grading: Each of the 7 short essays will be graded and will count for 10% of the final grade. The two class presentations will account for 10% each, and the final exam will also contribute 10% toward the course grade.

- 7 short essays: 70%
- 2 oral presentations: 20%
- Final exam: 10%

Plagiarism: Is forbidden.

Attendance: Is required.

Required Readings: Books are available at the University Bookstore.

- Frost, Robert Frost’s Poems
- Stevens, The Palm at the End of the Mind
- Bishop, The Complete Poems

Schedule of Assigned Readings

Tues, Sept. 25: Frost, “The Pasture,” “Into My Own,” “Storm Fear,” “To the Thawing Wind,” “Mowing,” “The Tuft of Flowers”


Tues., Oct. 23: No short essay


Tues., Nov. 6: Stevens, “Sailing after Lunch,” “Farewell to Florida,” “A Postcard from the Volcano,” “The Man with the Blue Guitar,” “A Weak Mind in the Mountains,” “Poetry is a Destructive Force,” “The Poems of Our Climate,” “Study of Two Pears,” “The Motive for Metaphor,” “The Course of a Particular,” “Not Ideas about the Thing but the Thing Itself,” “Of Mere Being”


Tues., Nov. 20: No short essay
Bishop, “A Cold Spring,” “Over 2,000 Illustrations and a Complete Concordance,” “The Bight,” “At the Fishhouses,” “Invitation to Miss Marianne Moore,” “The Shampoo”


Final Exam: Monday, December 3, 1:00 pm