

English 106 – Introduction to Poetry
Winter 2015 – CRN 22040
Tues. Thurs. 10:00-11:20
100 Agate Hall

Professor John Gage
jgage@uoregon.edu
205 PLC – 346-3922
Office Hours: Mon. Wed. 1-2
Tues. 11:30-12:30
or by appointment

Required Texts:

The Seagull Reader: Poems
and occasional handouts

Recommended on-line resources:

Poet's Corner – <http://www.theotherpages.org/poems/>
Poetry Archives – <http://www.emule.com/poetry/>
American Academy of Poets – <http://www.poets.org/>

Requirements:

Attendance and participation	20%
Five formal essays with rough drafts	50%
Oral Interpretation	30%

Readings: Poems for which you will be responsible will be assigned on weekly assignment sheets listing poems to be read for the following week. These will be posted on Blackboard prior to the week they will be discussed in class. Some poems may be chosen spontaneously in class. You should have read the assigned poems carefully and be prepared to discuss them. An excellent way to read a poem is by speaking it out loud. You may be called on to read a poem aloud in class. The quality of your reading will be a factor in your participation grade.

Essays: 3-4 pages of well-argued, formal prose in response to an assigned question. The essay assignments will be posted on Blackboard. This will be a writing intensive class, and by writing and revising carefully and thoughtfully you will strengthen your college-level writing skills. **The essays must be substantially revised.** Make a copy of the first, rough draft, and attach it to the copy of the revised essay you hand in. Write the draft well in advance of the due date, leaving enough time for you to consult a **Writing Associate** and complete a substantial revision. You must consult with a Writing Associate for at least three of the five essays.

WRITING ASSOCIATES are available by appointment to help students with any aspect of their writing for this course, during any stage of the writing process. They are peer tutors who can work with you one-on-one. They are advanced English majors who have been trained as writing tutors specifically for English courses. They do not edit or correct papers; they help you understand the process of writing about literature. To make an appointment with a Writing Associate, create an account and log-in at: <http://english.uoregon.edu/writingassociates/>

Your writing will be assessed both on the quality of the content and the quality of the writing itself. The writing you do for this class will be a direct response to and close reading of the poetry we read. Do not consult others' interpretations. You are strongly discouraged from using secondary sources, except as they may be useful in understanding vocabulary, obscure references, or historical context. **If you use outside sources of any kind in your writing, directly or indirectly, you must cite and document those sources appropriately.**

Oral Interpretation: You will read a poem aloud in front of the class, using proper timing, intonation, pronunciation, to communicate clearly the poem's meaning, emotion, and dramatic impact. You may have the text in front of you, but you should memorize the poem, and practice your delivery—enough so that you do not rely on the printed text except to prompt your memory. You will then discuss the poem briefly to explain what you were trying to get across in your oral interpretation and answer questions. More information about the oral interpretations will be posted on Blackboard and discussed in class.

Other Policies:

Attendance is mandatory. Unexcused absences will affect your final grade. Disruptive, discourteous, or inattentive classroom behavior will likewise affect your final grade. Turn off telephones and music during class. You may not use a laptop or electronic reading device in class unless you consult with me about a valid disability.

All work you do for credit in this class must be exclusively your own work and done exclusively for this class. Plagiarism or academic dishonesty of any kind will result in a failing grade in the course and a report to the Office of Student Conduct. Your continued enrollment in this class signifies that you are familiar with the provisions of the code of student conduct, which are published at:

<http://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/AcademicMisconduct.aspx>

Learning Objectives:

- Understand and appreciate poetry as an art;
- Improve critical reading skills;
- Improve academic writing;
- Improve oral delivery skills through responsible class discussion and oral interpretation of poems.

The English Department's assessment procedure is built around six desired learning outcomes: 1) read literary and cultural texts with discernment and comprehension and with an understanding of their conventions; 2) draw on relevant cultural and/or historical information to situate texts within their cultural, political, and historical contexts; 3) perform critical, formal analyses of literary, cinematic, and other cultural texts; 4) write focused, analytical essays in clear, grammatical prose; 5) employ logic, creativity, and interpretive skills to produce original, persuasive arguments; 6) employ primary and/or secondary sources, with proper acknowledgment and citation, as they contribute to a critical essay's thesis.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Readings to be announced. Schedule changes announced in class and posted on Blackboard.

1

TU January 6 - on delight and wisdom

TH January 8 - on universals and particulars

2

TU January 13 - on dramatic situation, stance and attitude

TH January 15 - on conventional stances

3

TU January 20 - on structure: foreground / background **ESSAY 1 DUE**

TH January 22 - on external form

4

TU January 27 – external form continued

TH January 29 – on conventional form

5

TU February 3 – conventional form continued **ESSAY 2 DUE**

TH February 5 – on open form

6

TU February 10 - on sound and prosody

TH February 12 - sound and prosody continued

7

TU February 17 – on figures and tropes **ESSAY 3 DUE**

TH February 19 - figures and tropes continued

8

TU February 24 – on performance

TH February 26 - oral interpretations

9

TU March 3 - oral interpretations **ESSAY 4 DUE**

TH March 5 - oral interpretations

10

TU March 10 - oral interpretations

TH March 12 - oral interpretations

Tuesday March 17 – **ESSAY 5 DUE**

No Final Exam