ENG 106
Introduction to Poetry

Course Description: ENG 106 is an introduction to one of the major genres in literary studies. Through careful analysis of poems by major writers, students will be challenged to explain not only what a given poem might mean to its readers, but also how a poem communicates meaning differently than a work of fiction, drama, or some other mode of literary expression. ENG 106 is not a comprehensive introduction to the traditions of English and American poetry; rather, it is a series of intensive exercises designed to equip students with the analytical tools needed to read, discuss, and write about poetry effectively. Weekly readings are relatively short but demanding, and students will do a substantial amount of critical writing. As a basic introduction to a major genre in the field of literary studies, this course satisfies the university’s Group Requirement in the Arts and Letters category. It is not recommended for English Majors, who are encouraged to enroll in the department’s more historically oriented and comprehensive Introduction to the English Major sequence, ENG 220-222.

Critical Writing, Class Participation, Exams, and Grading: Students will write four short essays (3-4 pp.) during the term. Essays should be typed, carefully proofread, printed, double-spaced, and two-sided. Each essay will be graded and will contribute 15% toward the final course grade. Active participation in class discussion is a vital part of your performance in this course. Oral participation (10%) and performance on graded in-class activities (10%), such as quizzes and worksheets, will also contribute to the final grade. There will be a final exam (20%) on Thursday, June 11, at 8:00 am.

Breakdown of graded elements of the course:

4 papers, 15% each=60%
class participation=10%
in-class exercises=10%
final exam=20%

Attendance: Students are permitted two unexcused absences during the term. Each subsequent unexcused absence will result in a 1/3 reduction of the final grade (i.e., a B+ becomes a B).

Plagiarism: Students who hand in written material that is not their own will receive an F for the course, and a report will be submitted to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards to determine if additional sanctions should be imposed.

Required Readings: All readings are available on Blackboard.
Schedule of Assigned Readings

Week 1: William Wordsworth

March 31: Introduction to the Course

April 2: “Preface to the Lyrical Ballads”
   “Lines Written at a Small Distance from My House”
   “The Idiot Boy”
   “Lines Written in Early Spring”

Week 2: William Wordsworth

April 7: “We Are Seven”
   “Nutting”
   “Lines Written A Few Miles Above Tintern Abbey”

April 9: “Ode: Intimations of Immortality”
   “Michael”
   “Resolution and Independence”

Week 3: Walt Whitman

April 14: “Preface” to the 1855 edition of Leaves of Grass
   “Song of Myself”

April 16: “Crossing Brooklyn Ferry”
   “When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom’d”
   “There Was a Child Went Forth”
   “The Sleepers”

Week 4: Emily Dickinson (Essay #1 due in class)

April 21: “There’s a Certain Slant of Light”
   “Success is counted sweetest”
   “‘Faith’ is a fine invention”
   “I felt a Funeral, in my Brain”
   “The Soul Selects Her Own Society”
   “Because I could not stop for Death--”
   “I heard a Fly buzz—when I died--”

April 23: “After great pain, a formal feeling comes--”
   “Much Madness is divinest Sense--”
   “My Life had Stood—a Loaded Gun”
   “A Narrow Fellow in the Grass”
'Tell all the Truth but tell it slant--'
'This is My Letter to the World'
'The Brain—Is Wider than the Sky'

Week 5: Robert Frost

April 28: “The Pasture”
“Into My Own”
“Mowing”
“Mending Wall”
“The Wood-Pile”
“The Road Not Taken”

April 30: “After Apple-Picking”
“The Oven Bird”
“Birches”
“Fire and Ice”
“Nothing Gold Can Stay”
“Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening”
“The Need of Being Versed in Country Things”

Week 6: Paul Laurence Dunbar (Essay #2 due in class)

May 5: “The Poet and His Song”
“Accountability”
“An Ante-bellum Sermon”
“Ode to Ethiopia”
“The Corn-Stalk Fiddle”
“Not They Who Soar”
“A Banjo Song”

May 7: “The Spellin’-Bee”
“A Negro Love Song”
“The Colored Soldiers”
“The Ol’ Tunes”
“When de Co’n Pone’s Hot”
“A Corn-Song”
“We Wear the Mask”
“When Malindy Sings”

Week 7: Langston Hughes

May 12: “The Negro Speaks of Rivers”
“The Weary Blues”
“Young Gal’s Blues”
“I, Too”
“Note on the Commercial Theartre”
“Dream Boogie”
“Harlem”
“Theme for English B”

May 14: “Cross”
“Dreams”
“My People”
“Minstrel Man”
“Mother to Son”
“Dream Deferred” Dinner Guest: Me”
“Po’ Boy Blues”
“Dream Variations”
“Cultural Exchange”

Week 8: Elizabeth Bishop (Essay #3 due in class)

May 19: “The Map”
“The Man-Moth”
“A Miracle for Breakfast”
“The Fish”
“Filling Station”

May 21: “Over 2,000 Illustrations and a Complete Concordance”
“At the Fishhouses”
“Questions of Travel”
“First Death in Nova Scotia”
“In the Waiting Room”
“The Moose”

Week 9: Wallace Stevens

May 26: “Disillusionment of Ten O’Clock”
“Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird”
“Anecdote of the Jar”
“The Man Whose Pharynx Was Bad”
“The Snow Man”
“Tea at the Palace of Hoon”
“Bantams in Pine-Woods,”
“The Emperor of Ice-Cream”

May 28: “Sunday Morning”
“The Idea of Order at Key West”
“Sailing after Lunch,” “Farewell to Florida,”
“The Poems of Our Climate,”
“Study of Two Pears”
“The Course of a Particular,"
“Of Mere Being”

**Week 10: Billy Collins (Essay #4 due in class)**

June 2: “Workshop”
“Days”
“Directions”
“Japan”
“On Turning Ten”

June 4: “Reading an anthology”
“The History Teacher”
“The Iron Bridge”
“The Man In The Moon”

**FINAL EXAM: 8:00 am Thursday, June 11, in ANS 195**