

ENG 106
Prof. Wonham
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276 ED

Office Hours: 3:00-4:30
Tues., Thurs.
PLC 274

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 two essays (4-5 pp. each) during the term. Essays should be typed, carefully proofread, printed, double-spaced, and two-sided. Each essay will be graded and will contribute 30% 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, such as quizzes, will also contribute (10%) to the final grade. There will be a final exam (20%) at 12:30 pm on Wednesday, June 8.

Breakdown of graded elements of the course:

2 papers, 30% each=60%
class participation=10%
in-class quizzes=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 Canvas.

Schedule of Assigned Readings

Week 1: Emily Dickinson

March 29: “Because I could not stop for Death--”

March 31: “There’s a Certain Slant of Light”
 “My Life had Stood—a Loaded Gun”
 “I felt a Funeral, in my Brain”

Week 2: Emily Dickinson

April 5: “Success is counted sweetest”
 “‘Faith’ is a fine invention”
 “The Soul Selects Her Own Society”
 “I heard a Fly buzz—when I died--”

April 7: “After great pain, a formal feeling comes--”
 “Much Madness is divinest Sense--”
 “A Narrow Fellow in the Grass”
 “Tell all the Truth but tell it slant--”

Week 3: Walt Whitman

April 12: “Song of Myself”

April 14: “Crossing Brooklyn Ferry”
 “When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom’d”
 “There Was a Child Went Forth”
 “The Sleepers”

Week 4: Robert Frost (Essay #1 due in class)

April 19: “The Pasture”
 “Into My Own”
 “Mowing”
 “Mending Wall”

April 21: “The Wood-Pile”
 “The Road Not Taken”

Week 5: Robert Frost

April 26: “After Apple-Picking”
 “The Oven Bird”

“Birches”

April 28: “Fire and Ice”

“Nothing Gold Can Stay”

“Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening”

“The Need of Being Versed in Country Things”

Week 6: Gwendolyn Brooks

May 3: “We real cool”

“The Ballad of Rudolph Reed”

May 5: “Gay chaps at the bar”

“my dreams, my works, must wait till after hell”

“looking”

“progress”

Week 7: Elizabeth Bishop

May 10: “The Map”

“The Man-Moth”

“A Miracle for Breakfast”

“The Fish”

May 12: “Over 2,000 Illustrations and a Complete Concordance”

“At the Fishhouses”

Week 8: Elizabeth Bishop

May 17: “Filling Station”

“Questions of Travel”

“First Death in Nova Scotia”

May 19: “In the Waiting Room”

“The Moose”

Week 9: Wallace Stevens (Essay #2 due in class)

May 24: “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”

May 26: “Tea at the Palace of Hoon”

“Bantams in Pine-Woods,”

“The Emperor of Ice-Cream”

Week 10: Wallace Stevens

May 31: “Sunday Morning”
“The Idea of Order at Key West”

June 2: “Sailing after Lunch”
“The Poems of Our Climate”
“The Course of a Particular”
“Of Mere Being”

FINAL EXAM: 12:30 pm on Wednesday, June 8