

ENG 205
Fall 2016
195 Ansett
MWF 11-11.50

Prof. Pyle
Office: PLC 270
Hours: M, W 2-3:30
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Genres: The Lyric

From the Early Modern lyric poetry of Shakespeare and Donne through the “lyrical ballads,” songs, and odes of British Romanticism and the American lyrical experiments of Dickinson and Whitman and the work of modernist and post-modernist lyric poets to the “lyrics” of our contemporary popular music in the troubador and hip-hop traditions, we will explore the many forms and experiences of the “lyric.” While there is no consensus about the classification or definition of the “lyric,” there are many explorations of this term and the variety of literary and cultural practices it might describe. For some authors and critics, the lyric announces a new deepened experience of selfhood, one marked by the prevalence of the subjective voice. For others, the lyric refers to any non-narrative poem that emphasizes its own musical qualities. Some artists and critics believe that the “lyric” refers to a “spot of time” or “privileged instance” that erupts from and interrupts the chronological unfolding of time. And there are prose fiction writers, filmmakers, and videographers who believe that the “lyric” or the “lyrical” is something that can be experienced in any medium. Over the course of this term, we will explore this range of possibilities in narrative film, prose fiction, and contemporary music as well as certain forms of poetry.

Advisory and Policies Students should be advised that some of what we will read or see or hear in this course contains graphic language and violence. I will do my best to alert you in advance to any such material, most of which pertains to controversial contemporary cultural representations. Attendance in the class is mandatory. Students who are absent more than five times over the course of the term will without warning have their course grade lowered one full letter. To be considered “present,” students must arrive on time and stay throughout the class. Please turn off all cell phones and other wireless devices; and please refrain from conversations during class.

Review the University policy regarding academic dishonesty that can be found in the *Schedule of Classes*: the policy will be strictly enforced in this class.

Required Texts Emily Bronte, *Wuthering Heights* (Norton Critical Edition), available at the University of Oregon Bookstore. All other literary texts will be uploaded to canvas. Films will be available online.

Assignments and Grading Quizzes 20%/ Midterm Exam 20%/ Writing Assignments 30%/ Comprehensive Final Exam 30% (Tuesday, Dec 6th, 10:15)

ENG 205: The Lyric
Schedule of Readings (Subject to Updates)

Introduction: Songs, Poems, and Lyrics

26 Sept: Leonard Cohen, "Suzanne," Bob Dylan, "Visions of Johanna," Cat Power, "Satisfaction," Eric B. and Rakim, "Paid in Full," P.M. Dawn, "Set Adrift on Memory Bliss," Chance the Rapper, "Angels," Morrissey, "Rubber Ring"

28 Sept: William Blake, from *Songs of Innocence*

30 Sept: Frank O'Hara, "The Day Lady Died," "Mayakovsky," "My Heart," "Light clarity avocado salad in the morning"

1. Three Lyric Forms

a. ballads

3 Oct: William Wordsworth

5 Oct: John Keats & Samuel Coleridge

7 Oct: Emily Dickinson

b. hymns and odes

10 Oct: John Donne

12 Oct: Percy Shelley & Samuel Coleridge

14 Oct: Wallace Stevens

c. sonnets

17 Oct: William Shakespeare & John Donne

19 Oct: John Keats & Percy Shelley

21 Oct: Gwendolyn Brooks

24 Oct: **Mid-term exam**

2. Lyric and Narrative: The Case of Emily Bronte

26 Oct: Emily Bronte, lyric poems

28 Oct: Bronte, *Wuthering Heights*

31 Oct: Bronte, *Wuthering Heights*

2 Nov: Bronte, *Wuthering Heights*

3. Lyric Pairings: North American Writers

4 Nov: Emily Dickinson & Walt Whitman

7 Nov: Emily Dickinson & Walt Whitman

9 Nov: Ezra Pound & H.D.

11 Nov: Wallace Stevens & William Carlos Williams

14 Nov: Sylvia Plath & Frank O'Hara

16 Nov: Ai & Jorie Graham

18 Nov: Denis Johnson & Cormac McCarthy

4. Lyric Cinema, Television, and Video

21 Nov: Sofia Coppola, *Lost in Translation*

23 Nov: Terrence Malick, *The Thin Red Line*

25 Nov: Thanksgiving Holiday

28 Nov: Wes Anderson, *The Royal Tennenbaums*

30 Nov: Don Draper, *Mad Men*; Russ Cole, *True Detective*; Walter White, *Breaking Bad*

2 Dec: Nick Drake, "Pink Moon" (Volkswagen advertisement); David Bowie, "Ashes to Ashes;" Lana Del Rey, "Blue Jeans" and "Video Games"

6 Dec: Final Exam (Tuesday, 10:15-12:15)