

ENG 407
12110
222 LIB
M 2:00-4:50 pm
canvas.uoregon.edu

Paul Peppis
PLC 154
W 12:00-3:00
346-7017
ppeppis@uoregon.edu

ST. LOUIS SEMINAR IN POETRY: WORLD WAR I POETRY

This capstone seminar, one of the St. Louis Seminars in Poetry, studies a selection of poetry written in English during and just after World War I (WWI). The first fully technological and industrial war in history, WWI tore across the globe between 1914-1918, leaving over 9 million combatants and 7 million civilians dead and millions more wounded, maimed, and shell-shocked. The war's horrific devastation was enabled not only by the widespread use of mechanized and chemical weaponry (machine-guns, tanks, airplanes, mustard and chlorine gas) but also by trench warfare, a grim and deadly form of combat based on attrition. Because WWI was also the first war fought by a soldiery largely literate, it generated a vast and varied literary record, including an unprecedented and unprecedentedly influential body of poetry written by combatants and non-combatants. In this seminar, we'll study how poets—some soldiers, some civilians—struggled to use verse to represent and respond to the unprecedented realities of the first modern industrial war and its aftermath.

Learning Objectives

Students who complete this course successfully should be able to:

1. read WWI poetry with discernment and comprehension and with an understanding of their conventions;
2. draw on relevant cultural and/or historical information to situate WWI poetry within its cultural, political, and historical contexts;
3. perform critical, formal analyses of WWI poetry;
4. write focused, analytical essays in clear, grammatical prose;
5. employ logic, creativity, and interpretive skills to produce thoughtful, persuasive arguments;
6. employ primary and/or secondary sources, with proper acknowledgment and citation, as they contribute to a critical essay's thesis.

Texts

Poetry of the First World War, ed. Tim Kendall (Oxford World Classics); Duck Store
Additional poems and documents (pdfs); canvas

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

- Week 1** *Introduction*
M (9/26) Rupert Brooke, 1914 Sonnets & Charles Sorley, “When you see millions of the mouthless dead” (pdfs; canvas)
- Week 2** *War and the Homefront I*
M (10/3) Thomas Hardy (pp. 3-13) & Rudyard Kipling (pp. 23-42)
- Week 3** *War and the Homefront II*
M (10/10) Edward Thomas (pp. 54-62) & Wilfred Gibson (pp. 63-74)
F (10/14) **First papers due (3-5 pp); 4pm, PLC 154**
- Week 4** *Trench Verse I*
M (10/17) Siegfried Sassoon (pp. 85-101); Sassoon's Declaration (pdf); *Recitations*
- Week 5** *Trench Verse II*
M (10/24) Wilfred Owen (pp. 150-174); Owen's Preface (pdf); *Recitations*
- Week 6** *Women's Visions I*
M (10/31) May Sinclair (pp. 16-20) & Mary Borden (pp. 75-84); *Recitations*
- Week 7** *Trench Verse III*
M (11/7) Ivor Gurney (pp. 118-134); *Recitations*
F (11/11) **Annotated bibliographies due; 4pm, PLC 154**
- Week 8** *Trench Verse IV*
M (11/14) Isaac Rosenberg (pp. 135-144); *Recitations*
F (11/18) **Paper proposals due; 4pm, ppeppis@uoregon.edu**
- Week 9** *Women's Visions II*
M (11/21) Charlotte Mew (pp. 45-47), Margaret Postgate Cole (pp. 175-177) & May Wedderburn Cannan (pp. 178-185); *Recitations*
- Week 10** *US Perspectives*
M (11/28) H. D. (Hilda Doolittle), Langston Hughes, Ezra Pound, & Wallace Stevens (pdfs); *Recitations*
F (12/2) **Final papers due (7-9 pp); 4pm, PLC 154**
- Week 11**
M (12/5) **Final examination, 2:45pm, 122 LIB**

REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

Attendance. At the start of every class, you must sign the attendance sheet (if you arrive late, it is your responsibility to make sure the sheet is signed). I consider attendance in your final grade: *for every unexcused absence beyond the first, your final grade will be reduced by a third of a grade.*

Reading. I expect you to keep up with the reading schedule and be willing to contribute to discussions based on your reading. You should re-read all assigned texts.

Participation. Regular class participation is expected. In class comments should demonstrate a high level of preparation, reflecting familiarity with key passages or problems in the assigned texts. Valuable contributions need not always involve the display of knowledge, however; asking searching questions can be as productive as providing ready answers. Participation makes up 10% of your final grade. *If you do not participate, your participation grade will be a C.*

Poetry Recitation. Everyone will sign up for and perform in class a recitation, from memory, of a WW I poem of your choice. Poems must be at least ten lines long. Recitations will be graded on the basis of ambition of selection, thoroughness of recall, and effectiveness of performance.

Papers. You will write 2 papers: the first, a concise close reading of a poem by Hardy, Kipling, Thomas, or Gibson is due Friday of week 3 (10/14; 3-5 pp.); the second, a research paper of your design, is due Friday of week 10 (12/2; 7-9 pp.). Final papers must draw on research and include an annotated bibliography (see below). Final paper proposals are due Friday of week 8 (11/18).

Paper Format. Papers must be typed or computer printed. Papers should be double-spaced with one-inch margins on all sides. Your name, date, and course number should be typed on the first page in the upper right hand corner. After page one, type last name and page number at upper right-hand corner of every page. Staple all pages. All papers must be titled. You must proofread carefully; spelling, punctuation, and grammar count. **Titles of poems take quotation marks; titles of volumes of poems are italicized or underlined.**

Late Papers. As a rule, I do not give extensions. If you have a good reason for an extension, you must contact me before the paper is due (the night before is not adequate notice). I'll deduct a third of a grade for each day papers are late (weekends count as two days): if you turn a B paper in one day late it will receive a B-; two days late, it will get a C+. After one week, I will not accept late papers; they count as missed assignments (F). *In order to pass the course, students must turn in all papers.*

Annotated Bibliographies. Everyone will research, compile, and annotate a bibliography of 10 pieces of recent criticism related to your final paper topic; these critical texts will serve as the research for your final paper. Your primary resource for this research should

be recent scholarly journals or books indexed in the MLA bibliography; additional information on bibliographies to come. Bibliographies are due on Friday of Week 7 (11/11), Armistice Day (Veterans' Day).

Final Examination. Everyone will take the final on Monday, 12/5 at 2:45 pm in 122 LIB. It is comprehensive and requires you to write brief essays based on five quotations from key poems in the course. If you have a scheduling conflict, you must notify me within the first five weeks of the term to reschedule. Make up finals will be given only in case of documented medical condition or documented university obligation. *University policy forbids the giving of exams before the scheduled exam time.*

Grading. A final grade of C or better for the course is required for English major credit. Participation, 10%; Recitation, 5%; 1st paper (close reading), 20%; annotated bibliography, 15%; 2nd paper (research), 30%; final exam, 20%.

Incomplete Policy. Students have one calendar year to make up an incomplete mark assigned by a UO faculty member. Failure to make up the Incomplete by the end of one calendar year will result in the mark of "I" automatically changing to a grade of "F" or "N." *No incompletes will be granted, except in case of medical or personal emergency.*

Students Needing Accommodation. *UO strives to create inclusive learning environments.* Please notify me if there are any aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. You are also encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Center (<http://aec.uoregon.edu>) in 164 Oregon Hall at 541-346-1155, so we can make appropriate arrangements.

Use of Electronic Devices. Laptops and tablets for taking notes are permitted, but cell-phone use during class is forbidden. Texting or surfing the web during class time is distracting and disrespectful to your instructor and classmates. Students who violate this policy will be asked to leave class and marked as "absent (unexcused)"; final grades will be impacted negatively.

Mandatory Reporting Policy. *The UO is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of prohibited discrimination and sexual harassment.* All UO employees (other than designated confidential resources) are required to report credible evidence of prohibited discrimination. This means that if you tell me about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence that may have violated university policy or state or federal law, I have to share the information with the University's Title IX Coordinator or the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity (<http://aao.uoregon.edu/>). If you wish to speak to someone confidentially, you can call 541-346-SAFE, UO's 24-hour hotline to be connected to a confidential counselor to discuss your options. You can also visit the SAFE website for more information (<https://safe.uoregon.edu/services>). Each resource is clearly labeled as either "required reporter," "confidential UO employee," or "off-campus agency," to allow you to select your desired level of confidentiality.

Academic Integrity. *Academic dishonesty is not tolerated in this course or at this university.* All work submitted must be your own and written exclusively for this course. The use of sources—ideas, quotations, paraphrases; from papers, articles, books, or websites—must be properly acknowledged and documented. If you have any doubts or questions about plagiarism or the University's policy on it, come talk to me or see UO's *Student Conduct Code*: <http://dos.uoregon.edu/conduct>.

In accordance with English Department policy, cases of clearly established plagiarism or cheating will result in a final course grade of “F,” and all incidents will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. In cases of a second offense, plagiarism or cheating can result in dismissal from the University.

Inclement Weather. In the event of inclement weather, a banner will appear on the UO homepage (<http://www.uoregon.edu/>) displaying information about delay, cancellation or closure decisions for the Eugene campus. The [UO Alerts blog](#) will be updated with the latest updates and bulletins. Local television and radio stations will also broadcast delay and cancellation information. I will use canvas to communicate information specific to the course. For more information on UO inclement weather policies see: <https://hr.uoregon.edu/policies-leaves/inclement-weather>.