Introduction to Poetry

**Texts:** *Staying Alive: Real Poems for Unreal Times*, ed. Astley. American Ed. 2003. Other materials provided in class or on Blackboard Course Site

**Course Goals:** English 106 is designed to enhance your knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of poetry. We will examine poems closely and analyze language, form, meaning, tone, purpose, imagery, sound, and more. The course will offer you problem-solving and analytical experience within a literary context. It will give you an opportunity to work closely with language and its ambiguities, limitations, and potential. The course will encourage you to speak in class and participate in learning activities; you will be able to explore your ideas even further in writing assignments (both formal and informal) where you will analyze, interpret, and provide evidence from the text to support your assertions. Exams will test your careful reading, your ability to present evidence logically, your mastery of analytical terms and approaches to poetry, and your ability to apply your knowledge in new contexts.

**Planning for Success:** 1) Because our class will be conducted with an emphasis on discussion, punctuated by occasional short lectures, prepare reading assignments listed on the schedule before class. 2) Take good and comprehensive notes on the reading and on class discussions. Aside from giving you practice absorbing detailed information in a way that reflects the kind of concentrated listening you may be expected to do on any job after college, good note-taking helps you learn and helps you prepare for papers and exams. Concepts, themes, terms, background information, images, objects, and details from our close readings may appear on exams. Creating your own extensive note archive is the best way to reinforce the learning you are doing in class, as well as the learning you accomplish on your own outside of lecture. Only you can take notes that will hold the most and the best meaning for yourself. If you have questions about preparing for class or taking notes, please be sure to speak with me. 3) Always bring texts/readings to class. 4) Prepare short writing assignments as assigned: journals/study questions before class. 5) Begin your papers early enough that you can let the ideas “cook” and have time for revision and editing. Multiple drafts and “re-visions” are proven strategies for success with any formal writing assignment at the University or on the job. 6) **Attendance is crucial for your success in the course.**

**Requirements:**
--8 Journal entries (kept on BB) and short writing assignments 25%
--Short quizzes (5) 15%
--Two formal papers 20% each
--Final Exam 20%
--Consistent and full attendance is assumed. (*Failure to attend class regularly, prepared to participate, may result in a lower final course grade, regardless of grades on written work.*)

**--All work is to be completed on time, and all requirements, including regular attendance and preparation, must be completed to Pass this course, whether you take the course for a grade or P/NP. Final exam will not be given individually outside the scheduled exam time, except in the most unusual and dire situations for which full documentation of a serious emergency is provided. ****The final exam is scheduled for 3:15 Thursday, March 17th.****
BLACKBOARD SITE: Announcements, the syllabus, assignments, and other important course information will be available throughout the term on Blackboard. Be sure to check our Blackboard site regularly for updates and announcements.

CLASS POLICIES:
Classroom etiquette: Please turn off all electronics before class begins. Activity that disrupts or distracts your colleagues or instructors from course material may also violate the university’s code of academic conduct. Please be considerate of those around you.

Students with disabilities: If you have a disability that may affect your performance in this class, please see me during the first week of the term so we can make appropriate accommodations, for your full access to all course activities and requirements. All accommodation requests require students be registered with the UO Office for Students with Disabilities.

Class Discussions and Lectures may NOT be copied, taped, or videotaped in any manner unless you have documented a communication-related disability with the University and have received permission from the course instructor. Should you miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain notes from your colleagues, so be sure to get to know others in the course who would be willing to help you and whom you would be willing to help. Missing class should, however, be a rare event. In no case should you take notes regularly for another student, unless both the professor and university have approved such action to accommodate a student with a disability.

Tutorial help: Students may use any of the services offered by the University’s Academic Learning Services (ALS), in 68 PLC (X6-3226) and Rob Colvig, email: rcolvig@uoregon.edu, a WR associate working with ENG 106. Any other assistance (beyond ALS) that you receive on papers, from organizing your paper to identifying your main points, from typing or proofreading papers to editing or revising papers, must be cleared with the professor. However, as you work to understand readings, discussions, and/or lectures, reviewing with your classmates outside of class is encouraged; this is different from directly assisting one another with a specific paper assignment.

Academic Integrity: The University of Oregon values academic honesty. You are here because you clearly have the ability to engage your own mind in rigorous intellectual work. Our Code can be found on the UO website, and is also available in pamphlet form from Oregon Hall. Papers assigned for this course will be analytical and will not require research. You may find yourself curious about something or may want more information at times; great--read on, and bravo for curiosity! However, no student will receive higher grades simply because he or she has used research in papers or exams. Please consult the University’s Code of Student Conduct and the textbook, Rules for Writers, for a definition of plagiarism and for information on documentation should you need it. (Rules for Writers is on reserve in the Knight Library.) See me should you have any concerns about documentation and/or academic honesty. An honest and obvious effort to document is absolutely critical and far more important for your grade than commas, abbreviations, or exactly correct formatting.

Course policy on Academic Integrity: All work submitted in this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course. Any use of sources (ideas, quotations, and paraphrases) beyond Eng 106 lectures and discussions must be properly documented. In other words, rely on your own grey matter, and wrestle well, yourself, with the course texts and materials. Protect the integrity of your own work and others’ In cases of clearly established plagiarism or cheating, a final course grade of “F” will be the minimum penalty, and all incidents will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct, as required by University Policy.
**SCHEDULE** subject to slight changes. (More details about class & assignments will be posted on Blackboard) All readings from *Staying alive.*

**Additional reading about poetic elements will be posted on BB and are not listed here yet.**

**WEEK One**
- Jan 1/3 M  Introductions
- 1/5 W  chapter 1 pp. 29-top of 39
- 1/7 F  chapter 1 pp. 39-52; first written assignment in class.

**Week Two**
- 1/10 M  chapter 2  53-72; 458-63
- 1/12 W  73-92 journal entry #1
- 1/14 F   

**Week Three**
- 1/17 M  Martin Luther King Holiday
- 1/19 W  chapter 3  131-152 journal entry #2
- 1/21 F   

**Week Four**
- *1/24 M  chapter 4  Paper 1 due in class.*
- 1/26 W   
- 1/28 F  chapter 5, selections

**Week Five**
- 1/31 M  chapter 6  journal entry #3
- 2/2 W   
- 2/4 F  chapter 7

**Week Six**
- 2/7 M  chapter 7  journal entry #4
- 2/9 W  chapter 8
- 2/11 F   

**Week Seven**
- 2/14 M   journal entry #5
- 2/16 W  chapter 9
- 2/18 F  Paper 2 due in class

**Week Eight**
- *2/21 M  chapter 10  journal entry #6* 
- 2/23 W   
- *2/25 F   

**Week Nine**
- 2/28 M  chapter 11 journal entry #7
- 3/2 W   
- 3/4 F   

**Week Ten**
- 3/7 M  Study sessions for Final; completion of final journal entry #8
- 3/9 W   Focus for journal entry 8: Chapter 12
- 2/11 F   

**Final Exam**
3:15-5:15 p.m. Thursday  March 17th in our regular classroom.

NB: This schedule may change slightly. Some readings may be assigned (provided in class or on Blackboard) that do not appear on the syllabus yet. Check Blackboard regularly and make note of announcements in class that will help you prepare for class.