Required Texts:

John Witte, *Second Nature*
and occasional handouts

Recommended on-line resources:

Poet’s Corner – http://www.theotherpages.org/poems/
Poetry Archives – http://www.emule.com/poetry/

Requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portfolio of daily reading responses and reflection</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two formal essays</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Interpretation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Policies:

Readings: Poems for which you will be responsible will be assigned on weekly assignment sheets listing poems to be read for the following week. These will be posted on Blackboard prior to the week they will be discussed in class. Some poems may be chosen spontaneously in class. You should have read the poems carefully and be prepared to discuss poems assigned for each day. You may be called on to read the poem aloud in class. The quality of your reading will be a factor in your participation grade.

Reading responses: Reading responses should consist of one or two paragraphs (no more than one typed page, double-spaced) in which you reflect on a poem from the day’s assigned reading and prepare ideas for discussion. These must be written before class. This writing may include your reactions, thoughts, speculations, observations, or questions directly related to the assigned poems or to concepts discussed in class. Reading responses will be handed in at the beginning of class on each day marked with an asterix * on the schedule and returned ungraded but with brief comments the following week. Keep your returned responses in a file as they are handed back.

Portfolio: The entire set of reading responses is due on May 26, along with a brief retrospective reflection, and will be given one holistic grade based on the number and
quality of completed responses and the quality of the reflective essay. Only those responses (with comments) included in the portfolio will count. Further instructions for the portfolio will be handed out and discussed in class and posted on Blackboard.

**Formal Essays:** 3-5 pages of well-argued, formal prose in response to an assigned question, or approved topic. The essay assignments will be posted on Blackboard one week before due.

**Oral Interpretations:** You will read a poem aloud in front of the class, using proper timing, intonation, pronunciation, to communicate clearly the poem’s meaning, emotion, and dramatic effect. You may have the text in front of you, but you should memorize the poem, and practice your delivery -- enough so that you do not rely on the printed text except to prompt your memory. You will then discuss the poem briefly to explain what you were trying to get across in your reading, and answer questions. More information about the oral interpretations will be posted on Blackboard and discussed in class.

**Attendance is mandatory.** Unexcused absences will affect your final grade. Disruptive, discourteous, or inattentive classroom behavior will likewise affect your final grade. Turn off telephones and music during class. You may not use a laptop in class unless you consult with me about a valid disability.

**Writing counts.** English classes are writing intensive and expect you to write at your best and use writing assignments to demonstrate and improve your writing skills. Your writing will be assessed both on the quality of the content and the quality of the writing itself.

The writing you do for this class will be a direct response to the poetry we read and will not require you to read secondary sources. Consulting outside sources can be helpful in understanding references or in providing historical context. If you use outside sources of any kind in your writing, directly or indirectly, you must document those sources appropriately.

All work you do for credit in this class must be exclusively your own work and done exclusively for this class. Plagiarism or academic dishonesty of any kind will result in a failing grade in the course and a report to the Office of Student Conduct. Your continued enrollment in this class signifies that you are familiar with the provisions of the code of student conduct, which are published at: http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/StudentConductCode/tabid/69/Default.aspx
Schedule
Subject to changes announced in class and posted on Blackboard.
*Indicates days reading responses are due

1
TU Mar 2 -- on delight and wisdom
TH Mar 31* -- on universals and particulars

2
TU Apr 5* -- on dramatic situation, stance and attitude
TH Apr 7* -- on conventional stances

3
TU Apr 12* -- on structure: foreground / background
TH Apr 14* -- on external form

4
TU Apr 19* -- on conventional form Essay 1 Due
TH Apr 21* -- conventional form continued

5
TU Apr 26* -- on open form
TH Apr 28* -- on sound and prosody

6
TU May 3* -- sound and prosody continued
TH May 5* -- figures and tropes

7
TU May 10* -- figures and tropes continued Essay 2 Due
TH May 12* -- figures and tropes continued

8
TU May 17* -- Read and discuss Second Nature
TH May 19 -- guest poet: John Witte

9
TU May 24 -- on performance
TH May 26 -- oral interpretations Portfolio Due

10
TU May 31 -- oral interpretations
TH June 1 -- oral interpretations

No Final Exam