

ENG 608
Spring 2019
M 6-8, PLC 448

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Colloquium in Poetry and Poetics

This colloquium has been conceived by the faculty in the Structured Emphasis in Poetry and Poetics as a means to introduce graduate students in the structured emphasis to a significant selection of the texts in the history of poetics drawn from our list of readings. The colloquium is intended as a seminar in which the faculty in the Structured Emphasis in Poetry and Poetics present the readings in poetics which they have found to be important to their own fields and to demonstrate how those critical or theoretical texts might guide the interpretation of or activate the engagement with some exemplary poems.

This year the following faculty will lead our nine sessions: Karen Ford, Paul Peppis, Lara Bovilsky, Jim Crosswhite, Brent Dawson, Mark Quigley, and Tres Pyle. Each session a faculty member will focus on one or two decisive texts selected from the Western history of poetic theory and place those texts in conversation with relevant poems. Our mission is to address some fundamental questions in poetic theory and form as they are exemplified or resisted by poetic texts in the long historical range of our Anglophone poetic culture. The theoretical texts are items drawn from the Structured Emphasis Reading List, one which doctoral students have used as a breadth field. The poems -- which might be traditional verse forms or other more expansive examples of the "poetic" -- will also be chosen by the leaders of each seminar.

All readings will be posted on Canvas, along with opportunities for group discussions outside of the seminar sessions. While there are no written assignments for this seminar, students will be expected to complete the assigned readings in advance of the sessions and to be prepared to participate in the weekly seminar. Each session is conducted by the faculty member responsible for the topic and the readings; but since all the faculty in the structured emphasis are invited to attend the colloquium, students can expect other faculty members to be present for any session.

Schedule of Readings and Presentations

Introduction

1 Apr: "Two 'Vital Tendencies' of Romantic Poetics" (Pyle)

Readings: William Wordsworth, "Preface" to *Lyrical Ballads* (1802), "Tintern Abbey"
Percy Shelley, "A Defence of Poetry," "Hymn to Intellectual Beauty"

8 Apr: "Words into Poems" (Ford)

Readings: Steele, from *All the Fun's in How You Say a Thing: An Explanation of Meter and Versification*

Poems: Hughes, Brooks, Cullen, Emanuel, Knight

Poetry Kit: "The Ballad of Rudolph Reed" (Brooks)

- 15 Apr: "Allegory: Theories of Errant Meaning" (Dawson)
Readings: Spenser, from *The Fairie Queen*, 1.1
Fletcher, from *Allegory: Theory of a Symbolic Mode*
Empson, from *Seven Types of Ambiguity*
- 22 Apr: "Intertextual Creativity: Translation, Imitation, Innovation" (Bovilsky)
Readings: Wyatt, Surrey, Petrarch, selected lyrics
Greene, from *The Light in Troy*
- 29 Apr: "Mimesis, Figure, and Affect" (Bovilsky)
Readings: Shakespeare, selected sonnets
Sidney, from *Defense of Poesie*
Rosenfeld, from *Indecorous Thinking*
- 6 May: "Yeats: Myth, Monument, and 'the filthy modern tide'" (Quigley)
Readings: de Man, from "Image and Emblem in Yeats"
Yeats, selected poems
- 13 May: "Heidegger and Humanism" (Crosswhite)
Readings: Heidegger, "Hölderlin and the Essence of Poetry"
Agamben, "What is a Destituent Power?"
Schnackenberg, from *Heavenly Questions*
- 20 May: "'A vast panorama of chaos and anarchy: *The Waste Land* and the Poetics of Impersonality" (Peppis)
Readings: Eliot, "Ulysses, Order, and Myth," "Tradition and the Individual Talent,"
"The Metaphysical Poets," *The Waste Land*
- 27 May: Memorial Day Holiday
- 3 June: "Benjamin and a Poetics of History" (Pyle)
Readings: Benjamin, from *Origins of German Tragic Drama*, "On Some Motifs in Baudelaire," "Theses on the Concept of History"
Percy Shelley, "Ode on the West Wind"
Graham, "Fission"