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

Introduction: Songs, Poems, and Lyrics
8 Jan: No Class
12 Jan: **William Blake**, “Introduction” to *Songs of Innocence* and **Frank O’Hara**, “The Day Lady Died,” “Mayakovsky,” “Light clarity avocado salad in the morning”

15 Jan: Martin Luther King Birthday

1. Three Lyric Forms
   a. ballads
      15 Jan: William Wordsworth
      17 Jan: John Keats & Samuel Coleridge
      19 Jan: Emily Dickinson
   
   b. hymns and odes
      22 Jan: John Donne
      24 Jan: Percy Shelley & Samuel Coleridge
      26 Jan: Wallace Stevens

   c. sonnets
      29 Jan: William Shakespeare & John Donne
      31 Jan: John Keats & Percy Shelley
      2 Feb: Gwendolyn Brooks

   5 Feb: **Mid-term exam**

2. Lyric and Narrative: The Case of Emily Bronte
   7 Feb: Emily Bronte, lyric poems
   9 Feb: Bronte, *Wuthering Heights*

   12 Feb: Bronte, *Wuthering Heights*
   14 Feb: Bronte, *Wuthering Heights*

3. Lyric Pairings: North American Writers
   16 Feb: 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: Jim Jarmusch, Dead Man
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)