

ENG 106
Prof. Wonham
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GER 242
T, R, 12:00-1:20

Office Hours: 1:30-3:00
Tues., Thurs.
PLC 274

ENG 106 **Introduction to Poetry**

Course Description: ENG 106 is an introduction to one of the major genres in literary studies. Through careful analysis of poems by five major American writers—Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, Robert Frost, Elizabeth Bishop, and Wallace Stevens—students will be challenged to explain not only what a given poem might mean to its readers, but also how a poem communicates meaning differently than a work of fiction, drama, or some other mode of literary expression. ENG 106 is not a comprehensive introduction to the traditions of Anglophone poetry; rather, it is a series of intensive exercises designed to equip students with the analytical tools needed to read, discuss, and write about poetry effectively. Weekly readings are relatively short but demanding, and students will do a substantial amount of critical writing. As a basic introduction to a major genre in the field of literary studies, this course satisfies the university's Group Requirement in the Arts and Letters category. It is not recommended for English Majors, who are encouraged to enroll in the department's more historically oriented and comprehensive Introduction to the English Major sequence.

Critical Writing, Class Participation, Exams, and Grading: Students will write four short essays (3-4 pp. each) during the term. Essays should be typed, carefully proofread, printed, double-spaced, and two-sided. Each essay will be graded and will contribute 15% toward the final course grade. Active participation in class discussions is a vital part of your performance in this course. Class participation, which may include performance on unannounced quizzes, will contribute 20% to the final grade. There will be a final exam (worth 20% of the final grade) at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, March 20.

Breakdown of graded elements of the course:

4 papers (15% each)=60%
class participation=20%
final exam=20%

Attendance: Students are permitted two unexcused absences during the term. Each subsequent unexcused absence will result in a 1/3 reduction of the final grade (i.e., a B+ becomes a B).

Plagiarism: Students who hand in written material that is not their own will receive an F for the course, and a report will be submitted to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards to determine if additional sanctions should be imposed.

Required Readings: All readings are available on Canvas. Students are required to print and read the assigned poems BEFORE each scheduled class meeting.

Schedule of Assigned Readings

Week 1: Emily Dickinson

Tues., Jan 10: Welcome

Thurs., Jan. 12: “Because I could not stop for Death--”
 “There’s a Certain Slant of Light”
 “My Life had Stood—a Loaded Gun”
 “I felt a Funeral, in my Brain”

Week 2: Emily Dickinson

Tues., Jan. 17: “Success is counted sweetest”
 “‘Faith’ is a fine invention”
 “The Soul Selects Her Own Society”
 “I heard a Fly buzz—when I died--”

Thurs., Jan. 19: “After great pain, a formal feeling comes--”
 “Much Madness is divinest Sense--”
 “A Narrow Fellow in the Grass”
 “Tell all the Truth but tell it slant--”

Week 3: Walt Whitman

Tues., Jan. 24: **Essay #1 due in class**
 “Song of Myself,” 1-15

Thurs., Jan. 26: “Song of Myself,” 16-30

Week 4: Walt Whitman

Tues., Jan. 31: “Song of Myself,” 31-52

Thurs., Feb. 2: “Crossing Brooklyn Ferry”
 “When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom’d”
 “There Was a Child Went Forth”

Week 5: Robert Frost

Tues., Feb. 7: **Essay #2 due in class**
 “The Pasture”
 “Into My Own”
 “Mowing”
 “Mending Wall”

Thurs., Feb. 9: “The Wood-Pile”
 “The Road Not Taken”

Week 6: Robert Frost

Tues., Feb. 14: “After Apple-Picking”
 “The Oven Bird”
 “Birches”

Thurs., Feb. 16: “Fire and Ice”
 “Nothing Gold Can Stay”
 “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening”
 “The Need of Being Versed in Country Things”

Week 7: Elizabeth Bishop

Tues., Feb. 21: **Essay #3 due in class**
 “The Map”
 “The Man-Moth”
 “The Fish”

Thurs., Feb. 23: “Over 2,000 Illustrations and a Complete Concordance”
 “At the Fishhouses”

Week 8: Elizabeth Bishop

Tues., Feb. 28: “Filling Station”
 “Questions of Travel”
 “First Death in Nova Scotia”

Thurs., March 2: “In the Waiting Room”
 “The Moose”

Week 9: Wallace Stevens

Tues., March 7: **Essay #4 due in class**
 “Disillusionment of Ten O’Clock”
 “Anecdote of the Jar”
 “The Man Whose Pharynx Was Bad”
 “The Snow Man”

Thurs., March 9: “Tea at the Palace of Hoon”
 “Bantams in Pine-Woods”
 “The Emperor of Ice-Cream”

Week 10: Wallace Stevens

Tues., March 14: "Sunday Morning"
"The Idea of Order at Key West"

Thurs., March 16: "Sailing after Lunch"
"The Poems of Our Climate"
"The Course of a Particular"
"Of Mere Being"

FINAL EXAM: 8:00 a.m., Monday, March 20