ENG 407
Dickinson, Whitman, Frost, Stevens, Bishop

Course Description: Students in this seminar will read, analyze, and discuss the major poems of five American poets, Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, Robert Frost, Wallace Stevens, and Elizabeth Bishop.

Papers, Presentations, and Exams: Each Thursday, students will hand in a 2-page analysis of one of the poems assigned for that class period. Students will also be responsible for leading class discussion of two separate poems on the syllabus. There will be a final exam at the end of the course.

Grading: The short essays will be graded and will count for 60% of the final grade. The two class presentations will account for 15% each, and the final exam will contribute 10% toward the course grade.

9 short essays: 60%
2 oral presentations: 30%
final exam: 10%

Plagiarism: Is forbidden.

Attendance: Is required.

Readings: Are available on Canvas. Please print the poems before class and maintain an annotated archive of course readings.

Schedule of Assigned Readings

Thurs, Jan. 11: Emily Dickinson

“Because I could not stop for Death--”
“It was not Death, for I stood up,”
“There is no Frigate like a Book”
“They shut me up in Prose--”
“There’s a Certain Slant of Light”
“Some keep the Sabbath going to Church--”
“My Life had Stood—a Loaded Gun”
“I felt a Funeral, in my Brain”
“A Bird, came down the Walk--”
“Before I got my eye put out--”
“Crumbling is not an instant's Act”
“‘Hope’ is the thing with feathers--”
“I dwell in Possibility--”
“I know that He exists.”
“I started Early – Took my Dog--”
“Mine - by the Right of the White Election!”

**Thurs., Jan. 18: Emily Dickinson**

“Success is counted sweetest”
“I would not paint -- a picture --”
“The Moon is distant from the Sea--”
“Wild nights - Wild nights!”
“‘Faith’ is a fine invention”
“The Soul Selects Her Own Society”
“I heard a Fly buzz—when I died--”
“After great pain, a formal feeling comes--”
“Much Madness is divinest Sense--”
“A Narrow Fellow in the Grass”
“Now I knew I lost her--”
“Tell all the Truth but tell it slant--”
“Publication – is the Auction”
“Safe in their Alabaster Chambers”
“This World is not Conclusion”

**Thurs., Jan. 25: Walt Whitman**

“I Sing the Body Electric”
“I Hear America Singing”
“Song of Myself”

**Thurs., Feb. 1: Walt Whitman**

“The Wound-Dresser”
“Crossing Brooklyn Ferry”
“When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom’d”
“O Captain! My Captain!”
“Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking”
“There Was a Child Went Forth”
“A Noiseless Patient Spider”
Thurs, Feb. 8: Robert Frost

“The Pasture”
“Into My Own”
“Storm Fear”
“To the Thawing Wind”
“Mowing”
“The Tuft of Flowers”
“The Wood-Pile”
“My November Guest”
“Mending Wall”
“The Death of the Hired Man”
“Home Burial”
“After Apple-Picking”
“The Road Not Taken”

Thurs., Feb. 15: Robert Frost

“Hyla Brook”
“The Oven Bird”
“Birches”
“The Witch of Coos”
“Fire and Ice”
“Nothing Gold Can Stay”
“The Aim Was Song”
“Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening”
“For Once, Then, Something”
“The Need of Being Versed in Country Things”
“Spring Pools”
“Tree at My Window”
“Acquainted with the Night”
“Design”
“Provide, Provide”
“Come In”
“Directive”

Thurs., Feb. 22: Wallace Stevens

“Blanche McCarthy”
“Disillusionment of Ten O’Clock”
“Anecdote of the Jar”
“The Man Whose Pharynx Was Bad”
“Tea at the Palace of Hoon”
“Bantams in Pine-Woods”
“The Snow Man”
“Sunday Morning”
“The Comedian as the Letter C”

**Thurs., March 1: Wallace Stevens**

“A High-Toned Old Christian Woman”  
“The Emperor of Ice-Cream”  
“The Idea of Order at Key West”  
“Sailing after Lunch”  
“Farewell to Florida”  
“The Man with the Blue Guitar”  
“A Weak Mind in the Mountains”  
“The Poems of Our Climate”  
“Study of Two Pears”  
“The Motive for Metaphor”  
“The Course of a Particular”  
“Not Ideas about the Thing but the Thing Itself”  
“Of Mere Being”

**Thurs., March 8: Elizabeth Bishop**

“The Map”  
“Chemin de Fer”  
“The Man-Moth”  
“A Miracle for Breakfast”  
“The Monument”  
“The Fish”  
“A Cold Spring”  
“Over 2,000 Illustrations and a Complete Concordance”  
“At the Fishhouses”  
“Invitation to Miss Marianne Moore”  
“The Shampoo”

**Thurs., March 15: Elizabeth Bishop**

“Questions of Travel”  
“The Armadillo”  
“Sestina”  
“First Death in Nova Scotia”  
“Filling Station”  
“In the Waiting Room”  
“The Moose”  
“One Art”

**Final Exam:** 12:30 pm, Tuesday, March 20