

Course Policies and Requirements for Modern Poetry

Professor:

Jack Peters

Course:

English 4435, Section 001
216 Language 11:00-12:20 p.m. TuTh

Texts:

Norton Anthology of Modern and Contemporary Poetry (Vol. 1)

Office:

115 Auditorium

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Office Hours:

1-2 TuTh, by appointment,
or pretty much anytime I'm in my office

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Course Requirements:

The requirements for this course are as follows: the completion of 1 term paper, a mid-term exam, and a final exam. The mid-term exam and final exam will each be worth 35% of your final grade for the class. The term paper will be worth 30% of your final grade. If you fail to turn in the term paper or take an exam, you will likely fail for the course.

Course Subject Matter:

This course will be on modern poetry beginning with Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson and going through the Modernist period. We will be discussing the literary movements relevant to the poetry, the historical and cultural contexts, and focusing heavily on the close reading of the poetry.

Course Policies:

Attendance/Promptness: You are allowed 2 unexcused absences without penalty. You can use these absences for any reason, but use them wisely. Their purpose is to allow you to miss class if something important comes up that does not constitute an excused absence. Illness, family emergency (e.g., death in the family, etc.), observance of religious holidays, and university-excused absences (i.e., participation in intercollegiate athletic events, etc.) are the only reasons for excused absences; all excused absences are subject to my judgment and require documentation on your part. You also must attend at least 75% of a class to get credit for attending that day. If you have 3 unexcused absences, I will drop your final grade for the class by 4%, and I will drop your final grade for the class by an additional 2% for every unexcused absence after that. If you miss more than 8 classes, depending upon the circumstances, I may ask you either to drop the class or take an incomplete (this latter only in the case of excused absences). There will be a roll for you to sign for both the first and second hour of class. It is your responsibility to sign these rolls. If you don't sign the roll and I don't remember that you were in class, then I will assume you were absent on that day. Do not sign the roll for anyone but yourself. If you do, you will be counted absent as well as the person in whose name you sign the roll. Even though you have 2 unexcused absences to work with, you should try not to miss class except when necessary, because it will be to your benefit to attend class, since much of the material appearing on the exams will be covered in class. As a result, students who chronically miss class generally don't do very well in the course. Although I have no standard tardiness policy, if you are chronically late (in my judgment), I may count a certain number of tardy days as an unexcused absence. In addition, whether you're present or absent, you're responsible for all material we cover in class, including any changes in due dates, policies, or reading assignments. So make sure you check the notes of other students for any classes you miss. Finally, if you miss an exam, you must have a good, documented excuse or you will probably not be allowed to make it up.

Late Term Papers: I expect term papers to be turned in on the day they are due; nevertheless, you have a grace period for the term paper. The date is in the Daily Schedule. If you turn in the paper before the end of the grace period, there is no penalty. If for any reason it comes in any time after the grace period ends by my watch (even a minute or two), I'll deduct 6% off the grade for the term paper. In addition, I'll deduct 6% for each day thereafter that your paper is not turned in. If you're out of town, and you want to turn in a late term paper to avoid further penalty, you can always mail me the term paper, and I'll consider it turned in as of the postmark date. The only exception to this late term paper policy is in the extremely rare case when it is impossible, because of excused absences, to turn in the term paper on the due date or during the grace period. Otherwise, there are no extensions beyond the grace period.

Grading Criteria for Term Papers: The primary criteria for grading term papers will be content and presentation. I weigh the content somewhat more heavily than the presentation, but both are important, and I will expect you to be responsible for the rules of grammar, punctuation, and usage you learned in Freshman English. The term papers should be about 7-8 pages long, but a little more or less doesn't matter to me. Just make sure you adequately cover the material if it's short or that there isn't unnecessary information if it's long. I do not scale paper grades.

Accommodations: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504, Rehabilitation Act, I cooperate with the Office of Disability Accommodation to make reasonable accommodations for you if you qualify as a student with disabilities. Please register with ODA if you have not already done so, and please present your written request to me by the 3rd class day.

Texts, Essays, Exams, Grades, Etc.:

Texts and Readings: The text should be on sale at the student bookstore. You are welcome to use other editions of the book, although the page numbering will likely differ and some of the material may also be different. I have also placed a copy of the book on two-hour reserve in the library in case you don't have immediate access to the books.

Mid-Term and Final Exams: The mid-term exam will likely be made up of 10 short-answer questions that will demonstrate your understanding of the material we have covered to that point. The final exam will also likely be made up of 10 short-answer questions, and 1 essay question that you will choose from several alternatives. The essay is intended to demonstrate your ability to apply what you have learned in different contexts from those we discussed in class. You will need a blue book for the final exam. If necessary, I scale mid-term and/or final exam grades, either by lowering the standards for a single grade or multiple grades, by scaling the entire class, or by using a slightly sliding scale, depending on the type of scale required in a particular situation. I do not give early or late mid-term or final exams except in extremely unusual circumstances..

Final Grades: I use standard percentages for grades (0% - 59.4% = F; 59.5% - 69.4% = D; 69.5% - 79.4% = C; 79.5% - 89.4% = B; 89.5% - 100% = A). If necessary, I scale final grades, either by lowering the standards for a single grade or multiple grades or by scaling the entire class, depending on the type of scale required in a particular situation. There are no extra credit assignments in this course.

Plagiarism and Cheating:

Finally, if you plagiarize the term paper or cheat on an exam, you will receive the maximum penalty allowed to me, and I'll report you to university standards for disciplinary action, regardless of your past performance or class standing.

Daily Schedule (Tentative)

- August 30: Introduction to Course.
- September 1: Walt Whitman
- September 6: Walt Whitman
- September 8: Emily Dickinson
- September 13: Emily Dickinson
- September 15: Thomas Hardy
- September 20: Gerard Manley Hopkins
- September 22: William Butler Yeats
- September 27: William Butler Yeats
- September 29: Traditional poets
- October 4: Robert Frost
- October 6: Robert Frost
- October 11: Wallace Stevens
- October 13: Wallace Stevens
- October 18: William Carlos Williams
- October 20: Mid-Term Exam.
- October 25: Imagism
- October 27: World War I poets
- November 1: World War I poets
- November 3: Ezra Pound
- November 5: Ezra Pound
- November 8: Marianne Moore; Informal proposal due.
- November 10: T. S. Eliot
- November 15: T. S. Eliot

November 17: T. S. Eliot

November 22: Harlem Renaissance; Last day to turn in informal proposal.

November 24: No Class; Thanksgiving holiday.

November 29: Harlem Renaissance

December 1: W. H. Auden

December 2: W. H. Auden

December 6: Theodore Roethke; Course conclusion; Essay due.

December 8: No Class; Pre-Finals day.

December 15: Final Exam from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.; Grace Period for Essay Ends at 10:30 a.m. Sharp by My Watch.