

Fall/Winter 2019-2020

AP/EN 1006 3.0A (F)

A Writer's Introduction to Literary Forms

Course Director:

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Delivery Format:

Seminar

Time:

Fridays 8:30-11:30 am

Description:

This course explores the craft and beauty of important literary works and their forms. Our course will attempt to reply to the pressing questions, why read? Why books? We will consider the magic and power of words, and the way form shapes content: how does something expressed in a poem, in a lyric, differ from how a similar experience, thought, emotion, or dream might be expressed in a short story, a novel or a drama? We will examine and explore how elements of form influence the effects of literary works. This course is divided into four sections: poetry (primarily the modernist form of the short lyric), prose fiction (short story and novel), prose non-fiction (the literary essay), and drama (two plays, one a classic; one a modernist response to that classic). In each section we will reflect on how style, how words, tones, sentences, character, personae, moods, all contribute at once to their effects on us, the readers. This course is devoted to understanding and enhancing the solitary act of reading. Deep reading leads to strong writing: we'll explore this idea, too. We'll look at the connections between fine works, how writers often read each other's works.

The goals of this course thus include becoming familiar with the way style and form shape content; and how writers shape their forms and styles to achieve and inspire moods and responses. We will work together to make each student-reader comfortable with applying key critical perceptions to enable attentive readings of influential literary works of art. By the end of the course I hope students will understand how to engage the shapes and the patterns, the styles and distinctive voices and rhythms of a poem, a short story, a novel, a play, and a literary essay. We'll explore what it means to be inspired by reading and writing, by individual poems and books.

Category:

N/A

Historical Requirement:

N/A

Requirements:

Engagement with class readings	10%
Poetry/Short fiction test (in class)	20%
Poetry Essay	20%
Final Essay (on Fiction or Drama)	25%
Final test (in class)	25%

Reading List:

1. Dillard, Annie. *The Writing Life* (Harper Perennial)/ Rilke, Rainer Maria. *Letters to a Young Poet* (Vintage)
2. Selected poems in the lyric tradition (handout):
Modernist Lyric-Imagist Poems by HD (Hilda Doolittle), William Carlos Williams, Ezra Pound, William Butler Yeats, Patti Smith
--"Oread", HD
--"The Red Wheelbarrow", William Carlos Williams
--"In a Station of the Metro", Ezra Pound
--"The Second Coming", W.B. Yeats
--"Arthur Rimbaud", Patti Smith
To supplement the handout, please obtain:
Campbell, Wanda; Gwynn, R.S. *Poetry: A Pocket Anthology* (Penguin Academics; 2nd Canadian edition)
3. Hemingway, Ernest. *In our Time* (Scribner's)
4. Bronte, Emily. *Wuthering Heights* (Penguin Classics or Oxford World Classics)
5. Shakespeare, William. *Hamlet* (Thomson or Penguin)
6. Stoppard, Tom. *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead* (Grove Press)
7. Woolf, Virginia. *A Room of One's Own* (Penguin)/ Frye, Northrop. *The Educated Imagination* (Anansi)

Open To:

Open space