

F/W 2021-2022

AP/EN 4115 6.0A (Y)	Contemporary Poetry and Poetics
Course Director:	Andy Weaver 542 Atkinson Ext. 20807 aweaver@yorku.ca Office Hours: To Be Determined
Time:	Friday, 11:30 am – 2:30 pm
Delivery Format:	LECTURE/SEMINAR – in-person classes
Description:	This course examines major Canadian and American poets from the 1960s to the present. We will read a selection of both poems and theories of poetics by leading contemporary poets and critics. We will examine how poets interact with their societies, how poets try to shape and make sense of the contemporary world, and how different styles and theories of poetry portray and enact different ideological stances. In particular, we will examine topics such as how poets use language both to construct and deconstruct conventional linguistic codes of meaning, how poets use poetic forms both to challenge and uphold notions of communal and individual identity, how poets investigate language as a meaning-making system, and ideas of mimesis in written texts. Particular attention will be paid to the ongoing (and at times bitter) dispute between different poets over the proper ways to use language to bring about social and political change, an argument that could be summarized by this question: should poets focus on constructing new ideas of the world, or should they focus on deconstructing received ideas?
Category:	B
Historical Requirement:	N/A
Requirements:	Fall term seminar presentation, 15-20 mins (15%) Fall term essay/creative-critical assignment, 2000-2500 words (25%) Winter term seminar presentation, 15-20 mins (20%) Winter term essay/creative-critical assignment, 2000-2500 words (30%) Class participation (10%)
Reading List:	Texts (TENTATIVE—the final list will likely be slightly different): Lyn Hejinian, <i>My Life</i> Erin Moure, <i>Sheep's Vigil by a Fervent Person</i> Hayette Mullen, <i>Recyclopedia</i> Dennis Lee, <i>Testament</i> Juliana Spahr, <i>This Connection of Everyone With Lungs</i> Dani Spinosa, <i>OO: Typewriter Poems</i> Susan Holbrook, <i>Joy is so exhausting</i> CAConrad, <i>The Book of Frank</i> Jordan Abel, <i>Un/inhabited</i> Adam Dickinson, <i>The Polymers</i>

	<p>Claudia Rankine, <i>Citizen</i> Tommy Pico, <i>IRL</i> M NourBese Philip, <i>Zong!</i> Evie Shockley, <i>Semiautomatic</i> Liz Howard, <i>Infinite Citizen of the Shaking Tent</i> Sharon Thesen, ed., <i>The New Long Poem Anthology</i>, 2nd edition (2001) Ramazani, Ellmann, and O'Clair, eds., <i>The Norton Anthology of Modern and Contemporary Poetry</i>, 3rd edition, volume 2: Contemporary Poetry (2003) Additional readings from various internet sites will supplement these texts.</p>
Open To:	Year 4 in Honours