

Fall/Winter 2022-2023

AP/EN 2100 6.0A (Y)	Introduction to Poetry
Course Director:	Prof. Lesley Higgins Atkinson 544 ext. 22344 19higgins55@gmail.com Office hours: Tuesday and Wednesday, by appointment
Time:	LECTURE: Tuesday, 10 to 11:30 am. TUTORIALS: (1) Tuesday, 11:30 am to 1 pm; (2) Tuesday, 11:30 am to 1 pm; (3) Tuesday, 1 to 2:30 pm.
Delivery Format:	Lecture/Tutorial - In-Person
Description:	<p>From “one fish, two fish” to the latest hit song that you <i>can’t</i> get out of your mind, poetry is words in action, words that go beyond the printed text. Poems sing on the page; they storm; they sigh; they provoke. Poems can move us to tears, to laughter, and to protest; they demand aesthetic but also ethical engagement. Developing students’ ability to read poetry with discernment and pleasure, and to understand the cultural and historical possibilities of poetry, are the main goals of the course. Students will encounter a broad range of texts from different time periods, focusing on generic and thematic connections. We will concentrate on poetry as a social discourse—as cultural practice rather than the personal expression of the author.</p> <p>Among the questions we will address throughout the year: what makes poetry <i>poetry</i>? How do the poem’s genre, form, and structure contribute to or determine how we understand the work’s content? Why has poetry emerged as such an important mode of artistic expression? How can a poem be “a field of action”? How can Percy Bysshe Shelley declare that poets are the “unacknowledged legislators of the world” (<i>Defense of Poetry</i>) but W. H. Auden regretfully state that “poetry makes nothing happen” (“In Memory of W. B. Yeats”)?</p> <p>The course is informed by two basic learning objectives: developing students’ close reading skills based on the technical/formal fundamentals of poetry, and refining students’ writing skills.</p> <p>Instructional priorities</p> <p>The course will focus on a broad range of poetic genres and forms from various historical periods and cultures. Our specific priorities and objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understanding the basic formal elements of poetry (rhythm, meter, rhyme, lineation, alliteration, etc.) and how they shape the way in which the poem makes meaning; • appreciating the different ways in which poets view and seek to explain the world;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing a knowledge of the different forms, styles, and techniques of poetry written in English; • learning how to enjoy poetry; and • refining students' critical, verbal, and writing skills.
Category:	B
Historical Requirement:	N/A
Requirements:	FALL TERM: one close reading exercise (600 words), 5%; comparative essay, 1500 words (15%), mid-year test, 20%. WINTER TERM: critical analysis essay, 1000 words (10%), research essay, 1500 words (15%), final exam (25%); class participation in tutorial, 10%.
Reading List:	<i>Beowulf</i> , trans. Seamus Heaney (Norton critical edition); Langston Hughes, <i>Selected Poems</i> (Vintage); <i>Norton Anthology of Poetry</i> (6th ed.), ed. Ferguson, Salter, and Stallworthy (Norton, 2005). Other texts will be posted on the course eClass site.
Open To:	Year 2,3