

HURON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
Department of English and Cultural Studies

English 2230F Poetry and Prosody
Tuesday 11 30-1 30 Thursday 11 30-12 30 HUC W106

Neil Brooks
Office: V123 Huron University College
Phone 438-7224, ext. 240
E-mail: nbrooks@uwo.ca
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1 30- 3 30 and any day by appointment

Prerequisite(s): At least 60% in 1000-level English course or permission of the department.

Course Description

This course will introduce students to a wide range of poetic techniques, forms, and styles. We will pay close attention to how poems use diction, meter, tropes, rhyme, and other formal devices as enabling constraints toward the production not only of meanings but of affects, moods, states of mind, and states of being

Course Objectives:

This course will help students develop as critical and creative thinkers and improve their expression of their ideas.

By the end of the course students should be able to:

Distinguish major characteristics of different kinds of poetry.

Discuss how choices about form—meter, rhyme, stanza format, et cetera—act as enabling constraints.

Reflect on the interaction between what a poem takes up thematically and how the work approaches that topic

Present coherent convincing arguments about poem in oral and written discourse.

Description of Class Method:

The course includes lectures but discussion will be a part of every class session. Your attendance and participation are essential. Students should come to class with their textbook, having read the work scheduled for that day, and should be prepared to participate in class discussion. Frequently, references will be made by page number to specific passages in the text. Students are expected to turn off their cell phones and other electronic devices during class.

Texts:

Adams, Stephen *Poetic Designs*
The Norton Anthology of Poetry: Shorter 5th Edition

Assignments:

The essay assignment will be given in the first weeks of class. Information about the correct form for the essay and for documentation is to be found in the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations. Late assignments will be penalized at the rate of 2 marks per day (including weekends) for seven days after which they will not be accepted, unless special arrangement has been made with the instructor in advance of the due date, or unless some special catastrophe prevents the essay being submitted on time. As well as the following assignments (which are followed by the percentage of the final grade each assignment will comprise), there may be other in-class quizzes and assignments.

Sight Poem October 4	5%
Sight Poem November 1	10%
Sight Poem November 22	10%
Essay (1000 words due November 29)	25%
Participation, Attendance, In-class work	10%
Final Exam	40%

Attendance Policy: Huron college has an attendance policy which says in part "Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class. . . will be reported to the dean (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the department. . . and with permission of the dean the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course." Your attendance and participation are essential.

It is a policy of the English department that to pass any English course you must receive a passing grade on both the term work and the final examination.

Readings:

The following indicates the general schedule of readings for the course. **However, all specific reading assignments will be given in class, and additional poems will be studied. Some poems will be photocopied and distributed**

September 7 Introduction to Course; Introduction to prosody. Cohen "I Have Not Lingered in European Monasteries"; "As the Mist Leaves No Scar" (handout)

September 11 Sonnet: Barret Browning; "How Do I love Thee"; Scansion; Shakespeare 18; 116; 29; 138; 130; 20; *Poetic Designs* Chapter 1

September 18 Poe "Sonnet to Science; Millay "I, Being Born a Woman and Distressed" *Poetic Designs*, chapter 2; Ode Coleridge "Frost at Midnight"; Shelley "Ode to the West Wind"; Keats "Ode on a Grecian Urn" (optional); Scansion

September 25 *Poetic Designs*, chapter 3; Gray “Ode on the Death of a Favourite Cat”; Smart “For I Will Consider my Cat Geoffrey (optional)”

October 2 Ballad “The Bitter Withy”; “Lord Randall”; Poe “Annabel Lee; Occasional Poetry: Randall” Ballad of Birmingham” (handout); Hughes “Birmingham Sunday” (handout) ”
Scansion **Sight Poem 1 October 4**

October 16 Elegy Millay “Receurdo” (handout); Auden “Stop All the Clocks”; Jarrell “The Death of the Ball Turret Gunner”; Whitman “Vigil Strange I Kept on the Field One Night”; Houseman “To an Athlete Dying Young” “Here Dead Lie We Because We Did not Choose to Live” (optional); Roethke “Elegy for Jane” (optional); “Unknown Citizens” day

October 23 *Poetic Designs*, chapter 4; Villanelle: Roethke “The Waking”; Thomas “Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night”; Dramatic Monologue: Browning “My Last Duchess”; Tennyson “Ulysses”; “Tithonus” (optional)

October 30 Poe “The Raven”; Eliot “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock”; “Portrait of a Lady” (handout) Frost “Home Burial” (optional); **Sight Poem 2 November 1**

November 6 Satire: Rochester “A Satire Against Mankind” (handout); Marlow “The Passionate Shepherd to His Love”; Raleigh “The Nymph’s Reply”; Marvel “To His Coy Mistress”; Herrick “To the Virgins to Make Much of Time”

November 13 Spenser “Epithalamion”; Corso “Marriage. *Poetic Designs* Chapter 5 Whitman

November 20 Aubade day; Modernism: Pound “In a Station of the Metro”; Stevens “Anecdote of a Jar”; “13 Ways of Looking at a Blackbird”; Williams “Poem”; This is Just to Say”; **Sight Poem 3 November 22;**

November 27 : Sestina Kipling “Sestina of the Tramp Royale” Sidney “Ye Goatherd Gods” (optional); Bishop “Sestina”; Found Poetry; Collins “Litany. *Poetry in Motion* **ESSAY DUE, November 29**

December 4: Beat Poetry: Ginsburg “Howl”; Ferlinghetti; Waits; contemporary poetry; Bukowski (handout); conclusion



The Appendix to Course Outlines is posted on the OWL course site.