

Studies in Poetry (W2W3W4) Office Hours: T,W12:10-1:00 or by appointment

1. Course Description: This course aims to acquaint students with practices of poetry, generally in terms of the shorter verse forms, and explore the idea of poetry as a genre. The students will be familiarized with various verse forms established in the course of history, read a variety of poetic endeavors, and discuss how these works variously explore the multiple aspects of the self and boldly imagine and invent ways of living and acting in the society and the world.

2. Textbooks: Selections from various sources, including

Harold Bloom's *How to Read and Why* ;

Edward Hirsch's *How to Read a poem and Fall in Love with Poetry*;

W. R. Johnson's *The Idea of Lyric: Lyric Modes in Ancient and Modern Poetry*

3. Teaching Method: Lecture, class discussion and group presentation.

4. Syllabus:

Week 1 2/21 General introduction: the idea of lyric; e.e. cummings's "i carry your heart with me," Tennyson's "The Eagle," Craig Raine's "A Martian Sends a Postcard Home."

Week 2 2/28 Holiday

Week 3 3/6 Sappho's fragments, William Blake's "The Sick Rose."

Hirsh, Chapter 1 "Message in a Bottle" p.1-15. The Dramatic Monologue: Robert Browning's "My Last Duchess"

Week 4 3/13 Presentation 1: Tennyson's "Ulysses" and "Crossing the Bar." Hirsh, Chapter 1 p15-30

Week 5 3/20 Dylan Thomas's "Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night"
Ballads: "Sir Patrick Spence"; "The Unquiet Grave."

Week 6 3/27 Presentation 2 : Hirsh, Chapter 2 "A Made Thing" P30-45
(and more Concrete poems)

Week 7 4/3 Holiday

Week 8 4/10 Midterm exam

Week 9 4/17 Presentation 3 Chapter 3 "A Hand, a Hook, a Prayer" p46-60.
Elizabeth Bishop's "Sestina"

Week 10 4/24 Shakespeare Sonnets 18, 73; Mallarme's "A Toast," Baudelaire's "To the Reader" and more about French Symbolist poems

Week 11 5/1 Presentation 4: Chapter 4 "Three Initiations" p 61-87.

Week 12 5/8 Presentation 5: Hirsh, "Reverberations of an Ode" in Chapter 9 (213-225). Keats' "Ode to a Nightingale" and "Ode on a Grecian Urn."

Week 13 5/15 Film: *Il Postino*. Film response due 5/20 12:00

Week 14 5/22 Metaphysical Poems: John Donne's "The Flea," "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning" ; Andrew Marvell's "To His Coy Mistress."

Week 15 5/29 Confessional Poetry: Sylvia Plath's "The Applicant," "Daddy,"
"Lady Lazarus," "Morning Song," "The Edge."

Week 16 6/5 Final

5. Evaluation: Midterm 30% Final 40% Class Discussion and Presentation 30%

***Use of generative artificial intelligence is prohibited in this class