

English 131: Poetry & Drama Section 001	
Spring Semester 2014 MWF 09:30-10:20 Brooks Hall G25	
Instructor: Sharon Kelly	
Email: skelly16@mix.wvu.edu	Phone: 304-293-3107 (Messages Only)
Office: Colson G23	Office Hours: W 10:30-11:30

Required Texts:

1. Bloom, Harold: *The Best Poems of the English Language*. Harper Perennial, 2007. ISBN 978-0060540425
2. Aristotle: *Poetics*.
3. Aristophanes: *Lysistrata*.
4. Sheridan, Richard Brinsley: *The School for Scandal*.
5. Wilde, Oscar: *The Importance of Being Earnest*.
6. Carr, Marina: *By the Bog of Cats*.

This course will require many individual books; please feel free to purchase them as we go through the semester (as opposed to all at once) according to your personal preference and financial ability. Although the specific edition of the poetry anthology is important, it's fine if you get different editions of the plays. I ordered the Dover Thrift editions when possible for the bookstore because they are small and extremely inexpensive.

Introduction:

English 131 is designed to give you an overview of poetry and drama. We will be discussing a wide variety of trends, topics, genres, and historical contexts. Spanning 2400 years and multiple continents' worth of literature in one semester is not easy, so the reading load for this course is substantial even though we will necessarily narrow our focus to certain texts at the expense of others. My hope is that after this class you will be able to think critically and analytically about themes and topics in literature, and that you will have a good understanding of different genre conventions and modes.

Course Goals:

This course fulfills Objective 5 of the General Education Curriculum at West Virginia University. This goal is defined as:

5. "Artistic Expression": Students are expected to apply methods and principles of critical inquiry to the analysis of literary or artistic expression. Students are required to complete one course focused upon critical inquiry in art, dance, literature, music, or theater. This course may also satisfy a major course requirement.

Office Hours and Email:

My office hours are on Wednesdays from 10:30-11:30 in Colson Hall room G23 and by appointment. Office hours provide you with an opportunity to come talk to me about your work outside the classroom. I will also be communicating with you regularly via eCampus and WVU email. It is your responsibility to check for updates or messages. If you need to email me, please give me 24 hours to respond to your email before emailing me again. Your email subject line should include the class section number and a concise, accurate subject (e.g. "ENGL 131

Panicking about upcoming test”). I expect you to use standard English and good manners when you email me.

Grades will be based on the following criteria:

Item	Description	Points	Percent of Grade
Tests (4 total)	Objective questions, non-cumulative	400 (100 each)	~73
Reading Response (4 total)	1-2 Page written response to any reading or film (topics listed below)	100 (25 each)	~18
Reading Quizzes	12 quizzes, 2 dropped	20 (2 each)	~4
Participation (twitter / in-class)	Class twitter account: @KellyENGL131	20 (1 point per tweet) 10 (in-class)	~5

Tests:

There will be **four** tests, roughly dividing the semester into quarters, made up of standard objective question formats including but not limited to identification, matching, and multiple choice. Tests will not be rescheduled and cannot be made up unless you contact me *before* the scheduled date of the test (i.e. if you know you will be unable to come to class, tell me *in advance* and we may be able to work something out). Readings on the syllabus, class discussions, eCampus uploads, and any handouts circulated in class are all fair game for tests. Tests will not be cumulative.

Reading Responses:

You will be required to electronically submit **four** reading responses **1-2 pages** in length, one due during each quarter of the semester **due on or before test days**. Keep summary to a minimum. Be concise, and have a coherent thesis (main idea / opinion / claim). You must have one of each of the following topics, but may choose any of the topics to apply to any text on the syllabus.

Topics

1. Analyze the text’s portrayal of gender or sexuality.
2. Analyze the text’s portrayal of the relationship between man and nature.
3. Analyze the text’s portrayal of religion.
4. Analyze the text’s portrayal of class (e.g. portrayal of the monarch, nobility, commoners, etc.).

The responses will be graded on the following characteristics:

- Is your thesis interesting, unique, different, or novel in some way?
- Are you engaging with the text and providing direct quotes as evidence?
- Are your tone, grammar, organization, and mechanics satisfactory?

Your reading responses **MUST** be in Times New Roman size 12 with 1” margins with a standard MLA heading. I reserve the right to refuse papers which are not formatted correctly. Not understanding how to change your default settings or not knowing what an MLA heading looks like are not good excuses. Google it! Also, please don’t plagiarize. It’s unfair to the person you’re stealing from, it cheapens your education, and I will catch you and there will be serious consequences.

Reading Quizzes:

There will be 12 random reading quizzes throughout the semester. These are meant to encourage attendance and reading, and are a way for us to get a running start on the day's discussion.

Reading quizzes will be very easy if you do the reading and impossible if you don't. Grades will be pass/fail, and I'll drop two quiz grades. Quizzes may not be made up.

Attendance:

You will be most successful in this class if you attend regularly. I cannot stress that enough. Coming to class will have a remarkable positive impact on your grade. Repeated or excessive tardiness, coming to class unprepared, and/or being disruptive will not be tolerated and I may ask you to leave. Basically, if you are going to be present, I expect you to be fully *present*.

Participation:

This is a small course that relies on discussion and working together as a class. You are expected to attend every class and make a commitment to both me and your peers to actively participate in our discussions. I assure you our readings are not boring, and so the more engaged you are the more you will enjoy the class. Students taking good notes is one of my favorite things. (We can talk about how to take good notes if you want.)

Part of your participation grade will be active posting to our **class Twitter account, @KellyENGL131**. I would like you to post at least once before each class to get discussion started. Your tweets will be evaluated for frequency and quality.

Extra Credit:

There are several methods of getting extra credit in this class. Extra credit will be applied to different categories depending on a student's individual need. Extra credit may also be used to bump up final grades which are otherwise on a cusp.

1. Get a passing score on all 12 reading quizzes.
2. Perfect attendance.
3. Memorization of a poem (recited to me in office hours).
4. Attendance of a play (ticket stub / program as proof).
5. Attendance of *The Importance of Being Earnest* screening organized by me at the library, date and time TBA.

Other options for extra credit perhaps TBA.

Policies and Procedures

Reading: You will be asked to read in this class. A lot. Hopefully some of it will be fun, and hopefully not much of it will be torture. Please remember to manage your time wisely and look ahead on the syllabus to make sure you are able to complete the readings.

Cell Phones: Cell phones must be turned off entirely or set to the silent function so as not to disturb the class. For excessive cell phone use, I reserve the right to ask you to leave the class.

Classroom/Lab and Laptop Policy: This class is held in a classroom with instructor technology, but not individual student technology. It is my personal belief that technology is an integral part of your education—not only because we all use word processing programs to type

papers, but also because print and visual media (largely accessible through the internet) are important outlets for the consumption and processing of information. Therefore, I encourage you to bring your laptop to class and will use technology aids for instruction whenever possible. I reserve the right to ask you to put away your laptop if I believe it has become a distraction to other students.

Standard of Work: You are expected to use appropriate grammar, mechanics, and writing conventions. It is important to remember that this is not a course in composition, and we will not have time to address writing methods in class. If you need help with writing, please go to the Writing Center or see me in office hours. **All of your work must be in Times New Roman, size 12 font with one inch margins and double-spaced.** I reserve the right to refuse work that is not formatted correctly.

Using Sources: I prefer that you NOT use outside sources in your short writing assignments. Keep in mind that **Wikipedia, Google and other tertiary sources (encyclopedias, dictionaries) are not acceptable sources in any submitted college paper.**

Social Justice Policy: In this class and in our discussions, readings, and writing throughout the semester, we will be examining ideas from diverse perspectives. Please always be mindful that our classroom will be a space of **respect and collaboration**. Challenging issues and ideas may arise, but none of these should be expressed in an inappropriate manner either verbally or in writing. Racism, sexism, heterosexism, and other forms of discrimination (spoken or written) will not be tolerated.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism is unacceptable. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of dishonesty by others, submitting work of another person or work previously used in other courses, or tampering with the academic work of other students. If you are caught plagiarizing or committing any other form of academic dishonesty (willful or accidental), disciplinary action will be taken and you may receive an “F” or an “unforgivable F” for the course.

Office of Accessibility Services: If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with the Office of Accessibility Services. Accessibility Services has moved to Suite 250 at 1085 VanVoorhis Rd (beside Applebee’s and across from the Mountaineer Station transportation center). The phone number is 304-293-6700, and email is access2@mail.wvu.edu. Access the website at <http://accessibilityservices.wvu.edu/>.

WVU Writing Center: The Writing Center -- a free tutoring service for WVU students -- is conveniently located in G02 Colson Hall. Tutors are available to help with any writing project in any course. The Center specializes in helping students with brainstorming, drafting, and revising their work. You are strongly encouraged to use the Writing Center throughout the semester. Hours & info: (304) 293-5788
http://english.wvu.edu/centers_and_projects/wcenter/writing_center_home

Schedule of Work
 (Subject to change according to progress)
 (Items marked **Video do not require purchasing/reading a text)
 (Poems in the Harold Bloom book are marked “BP”)

Drama

Week 1	JANUARY 6	8 Greetings, Syllabus, GEC marker, the Nature of a Survey Course	10 Aristotle, <i>Poetics</i> I, II, III, IX, XV, XXV Contextualizing drama through history
Week 2	13 Aristophanes, <i>Lysistrata</i> Beginning to p. 31 “(Several days are supposed to have elapsed)”	15 Aristophanes, <i>Lysistrata</i> p. 31 to end	17 Aristotle, <i>Poetics</i> IV, V, VIII, X, XI, XVI
Week 3	20 MLK Jr. Day; no class	22 Sheridan, <i>School For Scandal</i> Prologue-Act II	24 Sheridan, <i>School For Scandal</i> Act IV-Epilogue
Week 4	27 Aristotle, <i>Poetics</i> VI, VII, XIII, XIV Shakespeare, <i>Hamlet</i> (Selection on eCampus)	29 Stoppard, <i>Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead</i> **Video	31 Stoppard, <i>Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead</i> **Video
Week 5	FEBRUARY 3 Stoppard, <i>Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead</i> **Video	5 Test #1	7 Aristotle, <i>Poetics</i> XIX Special guests
Week 6 <i>Earnest</i> screening TBA	10 Wilde, <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> Acts I, II	12 Wilde, <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> Act III	14 Carr, <i>By the Bog of Cats</i> Act 1
Week 7	17 Carr, <i>By the Bog of Cats</i> Acts II, III	19 Aristotle, <i>Poetics</i> XVII, XVIII Luhmann, <i>Moulin Rouge</i> **Video	21 Luhmann, <i>Moulin Rouge</i> **Video
Week 8	24 Luhmann, <i>Moulin Rouge</i> **Video	26 Test #2	28 Aristotle, <i>Poetics</i> XXI, XXII, XXIII Poetry intro.

Poetry

Week 9: Intro., Love Sonnets and Love	MARCH 3 Sidney , From “Astrophil and Stella”(BP, 56-7) Shakespeare Sonnets: XVIII (eCampus), CXVI, CXXX (BP, 130-2)	5 Spenser , Sonnet 79 (eCampus), from <i>The Faerie Queene</i> Sonnet 46 (BP, 77) Elizabeth Barrett Browning , Sonnet 43 (eCampus) Neruda , from <i>Twenty Love Poems...</i> (eCampus)	7 Wyatt , “Whoso List to Hunt” (BP, 55) Keats , “La Belle Dame Sans Merci” (BP, 459- 61) Behn , “To the Fair Clorinda” (eCampus) Meredith , from <i>Modern Love</i> (BP, 761-2)
10, 12, 14 Spring Break; No Class. Read “The Art of Reading Poetry” (Bloom, BP, 1-29)			
Week 10: Sex and <i>Carpe Diem</i>	17 Herrick , “To the Virgins...” (BP, 157) Marvell , “To His Coy Mistress” (BP, 172) Jonson , “Song: To Celia” (BP, 149-the first one)	19 Rochester selections (eCampus) Swinburne selections (eCampus)	21 Fitzgerald , from <i>The Rubáiyát</i> : 7, 11, 12, 23, 24, 35, 36, 54
Week 11: Religion and Death	24 Hopkins , “No Worst...”, and “Thou Art Indeed Just, Lord” (BP, 687-8) Dickinson , “This Consciousness that is aware” (BP 582), “Some Keep the Sabbath going to Church” (eCampus)	26 Shakespeare , “Dirge” (BP, 132-3) C. Rossetti , “Song” (BP 711) Poe , “Spirits of the Dead” (eCampus)	28 Bethke , “Why I Hate Religion...” Spoken Word **Video (no reading)
Week 12: Satire	31 Pope , “The Rape of the Lock” (BP, 255)	APRIL 2 Swift , “The Lady’s Dressing Room” (eCampus)	4 Test #3
Week 13: Nature and Pastoral	7 Spenser , Sonnet 34 from <i>The Faerie Queene</i> (BP 74) Jonson “To Penshurst” (eCampus)	9 W. Collins , “Ode to Evening” (BP, 276-7) Bridges , “London Snow” (BP, 782-3) H. D. “Orchard” (BP, 875)	11 Kipling , “The Way Through the Woods” (BP, 764-5) WV poetry TBA (eCampus)
Week 14: Dramatic Monologues	14 R. Browning , “My Last Duchess” (BP, 658-9) Webster , “Circe” (eCampus)	16 Eliot , “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” (BP 897-901)	18 No Class

Week 15: Everyday Life	21 Ginsburg, "A Supermarket in California" (eCampus) B. Collins, "Roadside Flowers", "Monday", "In the Moment", "Theme" (eCampus) Williams, "This is just to say" (eCampus)	23 Semester Recap SEIs	25 Last Day of Class Test #4
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