

English 131.001 Poetry and Drama (CRN 87722)
MWF 11:30-12:20
309 Hodges Hall
Fall 2012

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Course Description

Welcome! It is my hope that this introductory course will heighten your appreciation of poetry and drama, both on the page as well as performed. In our investigations of various poetic forms and dramatic structures, we will study the work of poets and dramatists from the 4th century B.C. up until the present day. We will focus on three major aspects of the literature: 1. formal elements, 2. content and meaning, 3. performance contexts. It is important to remember that poetry and drama are some of the oldest written and performed genres, and we will uncover the ways that they continue to speak to us today.

Course Goals

- ❖ Gain an understanding of the formal elements of poetry and drama
- ❖ Study poetry and drama as performance as well as literature
- ❖ Explore the historical contexts of poetry and drama to determine their cultural value
- ❖ Read literature critically and respond actively
- ❖ Develop intelligent and thoughtful questions and comments based on your reading

Preparation and Reading

Because this is a literature course, you will have reading assigned for homework nearly every day. The readings are not optional, and to ensure that you are reading you will be quizzed and asked to respond to the readings regularly. You should read critically and actively, marking important passages and developing questions and comments to share in class. A large part of this class is based on class discussion and exploration, which cannot happen if students are not reading actively. Make sure you bring your book to class every day.

Required Texts and Performance

*Roudane, Matthew. *Drama Essentials : An Anthology of Plays*. Wadsworth, 2007. ISBN : 978-0618474776

*Strand, Mark and Eavan Boland. *The Making of a Poem : A Norton Anthology of Poetic Forms*. New York : WW Norton and Company, 2000. ISBN : 978-0-393-32178-4

*Garcia Lorca's *Blood Wedding* Gladys G. Davis Theater, WVU Creative Arts Center, Nov. 15-Dec. 2, 2012 (Times and ticketing information will be provided.)

Response and Evaluation

In-class Participation, Attendance, Quizzes (20%): This is a discussion-based class that requires active participation. I should not be the only one talking—the most compelling engagements with literature occur as conversations with many perspectives rather than a lecture. I know it can be intimidating to speak up in class, but I will make every effort to make our classroom a comfortable environment in which everyone has a voice. I will ask simple as well as complex questions about the texts in class, and you should always feel free to pose your own questions verbally. It's not enough to show up to class and be prepared; in order to fully participate in this class you must contribute to class discussion as well. **Toward that end, half of your grade for this portion of the course will come from active in-class participation and attendance and the other half will come from scheduled as well as possibly unscheduled reading quizzes.**

- In order to receive full credit for in-class participation, you will need to participate regularly (at least once a week).
- As for attendance, you have four free absences—I don't need to know where you are.
- At five absences, you will lose attendance points and at six you will earn a zero for this portion of your grade (10% of your overall grade in the course).
- You will also lose attendance points if you are perpetually late, do not have a book or notebook, and/or are disruptive and inattentive.
- **At seven absences you will receive an “F” in the course.**

If there is a legitimate emergency please see me or email me before the start of class that day to receive an excused absence. Three tardes will result in an absence. If you arrive late to class after I have taken attendance you have already been marked absent, and you must see me after class so I can mark you tardee. However, if you are 15 or more minutes late to class you will be marked absent for that day. **Finally, you are responsible for any work assigned/turned in on the days you are absent.**

Reading quizzes are also a part of your participation grade. There will be four scheduled reading quizzes over the course of the semester, two in each unit. These will be five-question, short-answer quizzes on material covered since the last quiz. The purpose of the quizzes is to make sure that students are reading and understanding the material. The content will be based on the readings as well as themes and concepts we discuss in class. This means that you should be taking notes daily in class, and if you are absent you will need to contact me or another student to find out what you missed. You will not be able to make quizzes up if you are absent, but I will drop the lowest quiz grade at the end of the semester. These will be out of five points. **Note: If I notice that students are not participating in class I assume they are not reading, and I reserve the right to give unannounced reading quizzes as necessary in addition to the scheduled quizzes.**

Written Responses (20%): I will assign 4 written responses to be submitted on Ecampus over the course of the semester. The assignment for each one will appear on Ecampus. For some of these you will be asked to respond to a piece of literature we discuss in class. Your response must move beyond simple plot summary and engage with the literature analytically, developing an original thesis. Because the responses are brief, you should choose one character, image, or idea to explore. Feel free to incorporate ideas we discuss in class, but you must add original ideas as well. You will also have the opportunity to create your own poem and respond to a live performance. The responses should be single-spaced and at least 500 words. They will be out of 5 points and will be graded on Ecampus. The due dates appear on the schedule below, and the deadline for submission is 10:30 a.m. on the due date. If you turn in a response 1 class period late, you will receive half credit. Beyond that, it will be a zero. I will provide a more detailed assignment sheet for the responses in class.

Exams (60%): There will be two exams in the first half of the course on Friday, Sept. 14 and Friday, Oct. 5. The exams will include short answer questions on poetic terms, passage identifications, and an essay. Together, these two are worth 30% of your final grade. Exam 3 will be on the drama section of the course and will be worth 30%. This exam will be in two parts: the first part will consist of short answer and passage identifications and the second will consist of essay questions. You will take the first part in class on Friday, Dec. 7 and the second part will be take-home and will be due during finals week on Tuesday, Dec. 11. Any material that we discuss in class is fair game for the exams, so make sure you take good notes on the concepts, terms, and readings we cover in class.

Grade breakdown:

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| In-class participation, attendance, quizzes | 20% |
| Written Responses (4) | 20% |
| Exam 1 | 15% |
| Exam 2 | 15% |
| Exam 3 | 30% |

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|----------|----------|
| 93-100 A | 80-82 B- |
| 90-92 A- | 77-79 C+ |
| 87-89 B+ | 70-76 C |
| 83-86 B | 63-69 D |
| | 0-62 F |

Policies and Procedures

Personal technology policy: The use of cell phones, IPODs, headphones, laptops, and Ereaders is prohibited during class time. You must have cell phones silenced and all devices put away. If I see you with a device out during class time, expect a significant drop in your participation grade. If you have any devices out during a quiz or exam, you will receive an “F” on that assignment. If you need special accommodations, please see me and I will give you special permission to use an electronic device.

Personal Issues: If you have any disabilities that may impact your performance in this class, please speak to me within the first week of classes. Also, contact the WVU Office of Disability Services at G-30 Mountainlair. Phone: (304) 293-6700 Voice/TDD: (304) 293-7740 Email: access2@mail.wvu.edu

Social Justice Policy: In class discussion, please remember to be sensitive and to respect the various viewpoints of your peers and offer your own views respectfully. We may be discussing controversial subjects in this class, and it is important that we maintain an atmosphere of respect and openness. If you are uncomfortable at any time with topics of class discussion, please see me privately.

Student Athletes: If you participate in a university-sponsored sport that will cause you to miss this class, please speak to me during the first week of classes. You must also provide me with a schedule from your supervisor.

Office Hours: I encourage you to come see me during my scheduled office hours if you have any questions or concerns about the course. I will hold office hours on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10:30-11:20 in G25 Colson Hall at the downtown campus. If possible, let me know ahead of time approximately when you are planning to come in. If you want to meet with me but cannot come during my office hours, either see me after class or email me to set up an appointment.

Academic Dishonesty

I take this very seriously, and if you are caught plagiarizing on a writing assignment or cheating on a quiz/exam the lightest penalty you can expect is a zero on the assignment. Depending on the severity of the offense you could also fail the course. You will be referred to my supervisor and the Student Judicial Affairs office. You can find the WVU Academic Integrity Statement on the website of the Office of Student Judicial Affairs.

Standard of Work

All of the writing you turn in for this course, whether it be reading responses, quizzes, or essay exams, should reflect college-level work. Students should be sure that the content is appropriate and that they employ grammatically correct standard written English. For questions on syntax, punctuation, and grammar, refer to the *Easy Writer* handbook or visit the Writing Center.

Schedule of Readings and Due Dates
(Subject to change as needed)

| <i>Unit I</i> | <i>Verse Forms</i> |
|---------------|--|
| Mon. Aug. 20 | Introductions and syllabus |
| Wed. Aug. 22 | Introduction to Poetry and Ecampus p. xiii-xxix *Meet in the downtown library, room 104 |
| Fri. Aug. 24 | Villanelle p. 3-8, Dowson “Villanelle of his Lady’s Treasures,” Bishop “One Art,” p. 19-20 *Sample writing assignment due on Ecampus |
| Mon. Aug. 27 | Thomas “Do Not Go Gentle...” Carruth “Saturday at the Border,” Osherow “Villanelle for the Middle of the Night” |

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| Wed. Aug. 29 | Sestina p. 21-24, Rossetti "Sestina: Of the Lady Petra..." Pound "Sestina: Altaforte," p. 41-42 |
| Fri. Aug. 31 | Hecht "The Book of Yolek," Williams "The Shrinking Lonesome Sestina" Quiz 1 |
| Mon. Sept. 3 | NO CLASS-Labor Day |
| Wed. Sept. 5 | Pantoum p. 43-45, Justice "Pantoum of the Great Depression" Response 1 due on Ecampus |
| Fri. Sept. 7 | Sonnet p. 55-58, Shakespeare "Sonnet 18," Millay "What Lips..." p. 71-72 |
| Mon. Sept. 10 | Stanza p. 136-140, Herbert "Easter Wings," Blake "The Tyger" |
| Wed. Sept. 12 | Dickinson "I Died for Beauty..." p. 154-155, Hardy "The Convergence of the Twain," McKay "The Tropics in New York" |
| Fri. Sept. 14 | Exam 1 |
| Unit II | Shaping Forms, Open Forms, and Poetry off the Page |
| Mon. Sept. 17 | Introduction p. 165-166 |
| Wed. Sept. 19 | Elegy p. 167-168, Gray "Elegy..." Bogan "Tears in Sleep," Hongo "The Legend" |
| Fri. Sept. 21 | Pastoral p. 207-209 Keats "Ode on a Grecian Urn," Deutsch "Urban Pastoral," Moss "Tornadoes" |
| Mon. Sept. 24 | Ode p. 240-241, Keats "To Autumn," Harjo "Perhaps the World Ends Here" |
| Wed. Sept. 26 | Open Forms p. 259-260, Hughes "I, Too," Williams "Spring and All" Quiz 2 |
| Fri. Sept. 28 | Rich "Diving into the Wreck," p. 287-288, Komunyakaa "Starlight Scope Myopia" |
| Mon. Oct. 1 | Poetic Spaces: poetry garden Response 2 due on Ecampus *Meet in the downtown library, room 104 |
| Wed. Oct. 3 | Slam poetry *Meet in the downtown library, room 104 |
| Fri. Oct. 5 | Exam 2 (Mid-semester) |
| Unit III | Drama |
| Mon. Oct. 8 | Intro. and dramatic terms p. 3-14 |
| Wed. Oct. 10 | Tragedy: Sophocles <i>Antigone</i> p. 39-48 |
| Fri. Oct. 12 | Sophocles <i>Antigone</i> p. 49-59 |
| Mon. Oct. 15 | Sophocles <i>Antigone</i> p. 60-73 |
| Wed. Oct. 17 | Sophocles film *Meet in the downtown library, room 104 |
| Fri. Oct. 19 | Sophocles film *Meet in the downtown library, room 104 |
| Mon. Oct. 22 | Discuss performance of <i>Antigone</i> |
| Wed. Oct. 24 | Glaspell <i>Trifles</i> p. 201-214 |
| Fri. Oct. 26 | Social Realism: Miller <i>Death of a Salesman</i> p. 341-360 Response 3 due (Last day to drop a class) |
| Mon. Oct. 29 | Miller <i>Death of a Salesman</i> p. 361-381 |
| Wed. Oct. 31 | Miller <i>Death of a Salesman</i> p. 382-406 |
| Fri. Nov. 2 | Miller <i>Death of a Salesman</i> p. 407-430 Quiz 3 |
| Mon. Nov. 5 | Character Studies: Williams <i>The Glass Menagerie</i> p. 281-303 Response 3 due on Ecampus |
| Wed. Nov. 7 | Williams <i>The Glass Menagerie</i> p. 304-321 |
| Fri. Nov. 9 | Williams <i>The Glass Menagerie</i> p. 322-340 |
| Mon. Nov. 12 | Williams <i>The Glass Menagerie</i> : Character Studies Conversations *Meet in the downtown library, room 104 |
| Wed. Nov. 14 | Structure: Xingjian <i>Dialogue and Rebuttal</i> p. 531-560 |
| Fri. Nov. 16 | Xingjian <i>Dialogue and Rebuttal</i> p. 561-572 Quiz 4 |
| Nov. 19-23 | Thanksgiving Recess (Begin reading <i>Blood Wedding</i> and attend the performance at the CAC) |
| Mon. Nov. 26 | Garcia Lorca <i>Blood Wedding</i> Reading TBA |
| Wed. Nov. 28 | Garcia Lorca <i>Blood Wedding</i> Reading TBA |
| Fri. Nov. 30 | Discussion of <i>Blood Wedding</i> at the CAC |
| Mon. Dec. 3 | Discussion of <i>Blood Wedding</i> at the CAC Response 4 due on Ecampus |
| Wed. Dec. 5 | Review for Exam 3 (Tomorrow is last day to withdraw from university) |
| Fri. Dec. 7 | Exam 3, part 1 |

Exam 3, part 2 due Tues. Dec. 11 by 5 p.m. on Ecampus