

English 113
MWF 9:00-9:50

Fall 2009
K. Murphy

Introduction to Poetry

One objective of this course is to familiarize the student with both traditional and contemporary forms of poetry. To do so, we will study poetry chronologically (from Shakespeare to the present) and formally (the sonnet, the ode, the dramatic monologue, etc.). The chronological survey from the 16th through the 19th century will take place during the first half of the semester, and during the second half we will focus on American poetry written in the 20th century, especially poetry written since 1950. A second, and perhaps more important, objective of this course is to instill in the student the desire and the confidence to read poetry and the ability to write about it critically and persuasively, and therefore participation in class discussion is crucial.

Requirements:

There will be a five-page paper due Friday, September 18, and an eight-page paper due Friday, November 20. In addition, there will be a midterm examination on Wednesday, October 14 and a final examination on Thursday, December 17. Since this course meets three times a week, **there is a maximum of five cuts for all reasons** (personal, religious, medical, etc.). After that, a student's grade will be lowered one full grade per absence.

Texts: **The Norton Anthology of Poetry, Fifth Shorter Edition, ed. Ferguson et al.**
The American Heritage Dictionary, Fourth College Edition
Supplemental Booklet (available through English Department/Muller 307)

Course Outline:

Week One: Method and materials; spider poems; sound and sense; craft versus risk;
strategic and subversive melody

Week Two: The sonnet; Petrarchan and Shakespearean

Week Three: The sonnets of Shakespeare; the triangularization and dismemberment of
desire

Week Four: John Donne; Songs and Sonnets; secular and religious love;
FIRST PAPER DUE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

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Week Five: The sonnets of William Wordsworth; "Tintern Abbey"

Week Six: Shelley's anti-sonnet; the sonnets and odes of John Keats

Week Seven: John Keats; review class; MIDTERM EXAMINATION
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

MIDTERM BREAK OCTOBER 15-18

Week Eight: Emily Dickinson

Week Nine: Thomas Hardy and Robert Frost

Week Ten: Theodore Roethke; the greenhouse poems; the villanelle

Week Eleven: Sylvia Plath; Richard Wilbur; SECOND PAPER DUE NOVEMBER 20

THANKSGIVING BREAK NOVEMBER 21-NOVEMBER 29

Week Twelve: Elizabeth Bishop; War poems: Yeats, Jarrell, Hecht;

Week Thirteen: Robert Hayden; Gwendolyn Brooks

Week Fourteen: William Stafford, James Wright; class review

Final Examination
Thursday, December 17
7:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

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