

Poetry Writing and Analysis Syllabus

Course Title: Poetry and Writing Analysis

Course Information: Day, time, Classroom 3

Moderator: Kara Heyne

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Course Description:

Poetry Writing and Analysis is a comprehensive high school writing course. The core of the course will focus on learning the techniques for reading and writing poetry, classical and modern, and discussing significant poems in the Western canon of great poetry.

For the first half of the course, we will be reading and studying the book *Poetic Designs* by Stephen Adams. This will give the students a working introduction to techniques in poetry like rhyme scheme, meter, and figures of speech that make poetry such a rich soil for study and edification. Homework will focus on giving students hands-on practice with these techniques. Since this is a writing craft course, students will also be expected to turn in prose analysis of poems we study, as well as composing their own poems.

For the second half of the course, we will be focusing on *The Making of a Poem* by Strand and Boland. Students will receive a thorough education on the classical forms of poetry and their attributes and functions. For example, we will be discussing the differences between a villanelle, a sonnet, and a ballad and their significance in the genre of great literature. As with the first half of the course, student will be expected to submit both prose and poetry assignments.

Grades will be based on participation, short answer homework assignments, and 8 written assignments (half prose/half poetry) and 4 exams.

Required Readings and Resources:

Main Course Texts:

Poetic Designs by Stephen Adams

The Making of a Poem by Mark Strand and Eavan Boland

Recommended: *Norton Anthology of Poetry*

Recommended Supplemental: *How to Read a Poem and Fall in Love with Poetry* by Edward Hirsch, *Poetic Meter and Poetic Form* by Paul Fussell.

Evaluation: Participation: 25%, Homework: 25%, Essays/tests/poems: 50% (12 assignments total, 4.17% each)

Homework: weekly

Analysis: 4 total

Test: 4 total

Poetry: 4 total

A note about participation: A student can earn one participation point per class by speaking on the mic during the class period about any relevant topic. This could be a question, a note about a poem the student enjoyed, or any other comment relating to the material. If a student does not have microphone access, they may get “chat box privilege” by informing Mrs. H BEFORE the class starts. Then they may earn their point by putting their comment in the chat box instead of on the mic. If a student misses a class period point, they may earn it back by writing a paragraph about the class and emailing it to Mrs. H.

Grading Scale: 94-100 A, 90-93 A-, 87-89 B+, 84-86 B, 80-83 B-, 77-79 C+, 74-76 C, 70-73 C-, 60-69 D, 59 and below F. Incomplete = I.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism by definition is taking someone else’s words or thoughts and claiming that they are yours. The good news is, we will be talking A LOT about that in this course. The bad news is, this means that you should not use the “copy/paste” functions on your computer without understanding how to properly cite your sources. Plagiarism and all other forms of academic dishonesty will be

punished severely, by removal from the course and the program. If you are in doubt about whether something is wrong, just ask!

Course Schedule:

Week 1: Introduction to Poetry

Week 2: Ch. 1: The Importance of Prosody

Week 3: Ch. 1: The Accentual-Syllabic System

Week 4: Ch. 1: Syntactic Rhythm and the Line Unit

Week 5: Analysis #1 Due. Ch. 2 Accentual Meters and Ballad Stanza

Week 6: Ch. 2 The Longer and Shorter Iambic Meters

Week 7: Poem #1 due. Ch. 2. Syllabic and Quantitative Systems

Week 8: Exam #1

Week 9: Ch. 3 The Dynamics of Stanza and Form

Week 10: Ch. 3 Some Standard Verse Forms

Week 11: Ch. 4 Rhetoric and Figure

Week 12: Analysis #2 Due. Ch. 4 The Tropes

Week 13: Ch. 5 Lines: the Master Convention of Free Verse

Week 14: Poem #2 Due. Ch. 5 The Margins of Genre

Week 15: Exam #2

Week 16: Making of a Poem Introduction xiii-xxix

Week 17: Ch. 1 The Villanelle

Week 18: Ch. 1 The Sestina

Week 19: Ch. 1 The Pantoum

Week 20: Analysis #3 Due. Ch. 1 The Sonnet

Week 21: Ch. 1 The Ballad

Week 22: Poem #3 Due. Ch 1. Blank Verse

Week 23: Exam #3

Week 24: Ch. 1 Heroic Couplet

Week 25: Ch. 1 Stanza, Ch. 2, Ch. 3 Shaping Forms

Week 26: Ch. 3 Elegy

Week 27: Analysis #4 Due. Ch. 3 Pastoral

Week 28: Ch. 3 Ode

Week 29: Poem #4 Due. Ch. 4 Open Forms.

Week 30: Exam #4