

English 205: Writing About Poetry

Dr. Gretchen Schulz

Office: 103 Humanities Hall

Office Hours: 2:00-4:00 M, T, W, Th, and by appointment

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Texts: .

Western Wind: An Introduction to Poetry Eds. John Frederick Nims and David Mason

any good handbook

any good dictionary

Class Schedule:

Jan. 17 introduction to the course

Jan. 19 ballads

Jan. 22 ballads

Jan. 24 ballads

Jan. 26 sonnets

Jan. 29 sonnets

Jan. 31 sonnets

Feb. 02 discussion of form; your poems due

Feb. 05 free verse

Feb. 07 free verse

Feb. 09 free verse; first essay due (15%)

Feb. 12 discussion of figures of speech

Feb. 14 poems TBA

Feb. 16 your poems due

Feb. 19 discussion of symbols

Feb. 21 poems TBA

Feb. 23 your poems due

Feb. 26 discussion of allusion

Feb. 28 poems TBA

Mar. 02 poems TBA; second essay due (15%)

Mar. 05 poems TBA

Mar. 07 poems TBA

Mar. 09 poems TBA

SPRING BREAK

Mar. 19 pairs of poems

Mar. 21 pairs of poems

Mar. 23 pairs of poems

Mar. 26 pairs of poems

Mar. 28 pairs of poems

Mar. 30 no class

Apr. 02 pairs of poems
Apr. 04 medieval lyric
Apr. 06 medieval lyric; third essay due (20%)

Apr. 09 metaphysical poetry
Apr. 11 metaphysical poetry
Apr. 13 metaphysical poetry; your poems due

Apr. 16 Romantic poetry
Apr. 18 Romantic poetry
Apr. 20 Victorian poetry; your poems due

Apr. 23 modern poetry
Apr. 25 modern poetry
Apr. 27 modern poetry; your poems due

Apr. 30 modern poetry

May 02 fourth essay due by 4:30 p.m. (25%)

May 03 final exam, Thursday, 2:00-5:00 (10%)

Course Requirements:

The successful completion of English 205 will require the following of each student enrolled in the course:

1. close reading of the literary texts assigned
2. frequent intelligent contribution to class discussion of these texts
3. occasional facilitation of class discussion of these texts
4. preparation of four essays on these texts
5. some imitation of poets read and some writing of your own poetry
6. taking of a final exam applying and demonstrating the critical techniques and writing skills developed during the semester

Course Objectives:

By the end of the semester, you should have developed your ability to read closely and analytically, to think critically and creatively, and to write persuasively, selecting, organizing, and presenting evidence sufficient to support meaningful theses in clear, correct, and effective prose, acknowledging any sources used with appropriate documentation. Frequent contribution to class discussion and the occasional facilitation of class discussion will develop your ability to articulate your views aloud, as well. Of course, you will also have come to know the work of many major poets well. And let's hope that you will end up loving to read poetry-- and maybe even loving to write poetry-- if you don't already!!!

Policy on Attendance:

You may have two absences with no penalty (though you will be considered responsible for work done or due in class on any day you miss for any reason and responsible for informing yourself about any assignments or announcements made on days which you miss). Absences three and four will count 1 point each off of your final grade in the course. Absences five and six will count 2 points each off. Further absences will count 3 1/3 points each off.

Only significant illness, major emergency, or required religious observance will excuse an absence (and note that students should inform me of the latter ahead of time).

Students who come to class late (after I have taken attendance) are responsible for asking me to correct the attendance record right after class. That record will not be adjusted at a later date. Frequent tardiness will result in a penalty (more points taken from the final grade).

Policy on Late or Missing Work:

Only significant illness or major emergency will excuse a late essay. Work whose lateness is unexcused will lose one letter grade for each calendar day it is late. After four days, unexcused late work will not be accepted at all and will receive a zero.

Only significant illness or major emergency will excuse missed class facilitation. If missed facilitation must be made-up at a later date without adequate excuse, the grade on the facilitation will be reduced one letter grade.

Determination of Final Grade:

first essay	15%
second essay	15%
third essay	20%
fourth essay	25%
class participation/facilitation	15%
final exam	10%

I will be grading the work you submit to me-- and assigning your final grade in the course-- using the plus/minus grading system.

Please note that all work for the course must be done in accordance with the dictates of the Honor Code of the College. Your name on any work you do for the course constitutes an Honor pledge.