

## English 205: Poetry

Spring 2009  
Oxford College of Emory University

Dr. Clark Lemons  
Office: Few 104: Tu.-F 3-4 pm

### Objectives

- Through intensive study of poems, to improve the ability to analyze and appreciate this particular art form
- Through writing about poetry, to understand more fully the strengths and weaknesses of your own writing, to improve your writing, and to come to greater understanding of the subject of your writing
- Through conversation about poems, to practice the verbal art of communicating ideas with the end of greater learning from others, from your instructor, and from yourself
- Through study of texts alone and in class, to learn the major poetic techniques, and something about the work of major poets, types and styles of poetry

### Guidelines

1. Each absence, after the first two, results in one point off your final average. You do not need permission to take the first two absences; use them for illness or whatever you believe important. If you are absent/late, it is your responsibility to learn what you missed. Excessive lateness will also reduce your grade.
2. The final exam will be an in-class essay, graded for form as well as content. For the essay you will be given poems you will not have seen before to write about.
3. The five papers should be 800-850 words in length, or 3+ pages each, except for the first one. Workshop Day will precede the due date for the early papers. Complete rough drafts are due on Workshop Day.. Late papers will be penalized one letter grade per 24 hours, beginning at the start of class on the due date. After the first paper is returned to you, you should make an appointment for an individual conference with me so that we can see how you are doing; thereafter conferences are optional.
4. Quizzes will not be difficult and will relate to the work of that day; they can't be taken late or made up. Tardiness will mean you miss the opportunity to take a quiz.
5. The "Discussion" part of your grade means you must be willing to speak some in class as well as listen. Class is basically conversation, but each of you will prepare and present a poem, leading part of the class discussion for that day. The daily routine will normally consist of working through the chapters of the text by talking about them.
6. The journal is an informal set of reflections on the poems, totalling 30 pages. You may include your own poems if you wish and if they are new ones.
6. Feel free to set up an appointment with me to discuss your papers or work in the class. Office hours are posted above, but I am available at many other times.
7. Keep your syllabus handy and follow it. Any changes will be announced in class and on the Learnlink conference. The syllabus and other important information will be posted on the conference. (Oxford College>Oxford Classes>English>205 Lemons)

**Texts:** David Mason, Western Wind; Janet Gardner, Writing About Literature; & any MLA-based Writing Handbook (The Practical English Handbook or the Bedford, etc.)

## Grading Policy

Final 20%, Papers (6) 60%, Discussion-Quizzes-Journal 20%.

(Keep track of your own grades so you will know how you are doing. I do not average grades until after the final exam. I will drop the lowest one or two quiz grades.)

## English 205: Poetry Schedule of Assignments

Jan	14 Introduction	6 Journal Due (10 pgs)
	16 Mason 1 & Gardner 1	7-14 Spring Break
	19 No Class (MLK Day)	16 Mason 7
	21 Mason 1 & Gardner 5	18 Workshop
	23 Workshop; Gardner 3. 43-46	20 Paper 4 Due
	26 Paper 1 due (1-2 pgs)	23 Mason 7
	28 Mason 2 & Gardner 2. 16-31	25 Mason 8
	30 Mason 2 & Gardner 2 31-42	27 Mason 8
Feb	2 Journal Due (10 pgs)	30 Mason 8 & Gardner 7
	4 Mason 3	April 1 Mason 9
	6 Workshop	3 Mason 9
	9 Paper 2 Due	6 Workshop
	11 Mason 3 & Gardner 3	8 Paper 5 Due (with citations)
	13 Mason 4	10 Mason 10
	16 Mason 4	13 Mason 10
	18 Workshop	15 Mason 10
	20 Paper 3 Due	17 Mason 11
	23 Mason 5	20 Journal Due
	25 Mason 5	22 Paper 6 Due (with citations)
	27 Mason 5	27 Mason 11
Mar	2 Mason 6	30 Final Exam 2-5 pm
	4 Mason 6	

**Papers:** papers will be due approximately every two weeks. You are encouraged to meet with me before a paper is due or after it has been returned. You will need The Practical English Handbook or any other MLA (Modern Language Association) -based Handbook as a reference for your writing. The Term paper ( paper 6) is longer and has special requirements (see handout). On days papers or journals are due the reading assignment will be to finish up the previous reading assignment..

**Readings:** We will spend more time on some chapters than on others, depending primarily on your interest. Assignments in the chapters will be announced, but reading a whole chapter once and then reviewing specific pages the night before class is a good way to prepare. Read every assignment twice before class—and the difficult poems more than twice.