

Oxford College of Emory University

COURSE OUTLINE

English 205 - Writing About Poetry

Dr. Lucas Carpenter

Fall 2005 Semester

I. Objectives of the Course

Through class participation, the close reading of assigned literary works, in-class writing exercises and tests, six formal essays (800-1000 words), and a final examination, the student will be graded on his/her ability:

- A. To organize and develop ideas about poetry.
- B. To write college-level critical essays which show a mastery of the fundamentals of poetry criticism and poetics.
- C. To define the essential characteristics of poetry as a literary genre.
- D. To analyze and explicate a poem.
- E. To write a sonnet.
- F. To define the larger structures of the poems to be read during the course, the various problems these poems present, the literary-historical background against which they appear, and the styles in which they are written.

II. Student Requirements for Completing the Course

- A. Brief unannounced quizzes which will be factual in nature. There are no make-ups for missed quizzes.
- B. Several in-class writing assignments and presentations. There are no make-ups for these assignments.
- C. Six formal critical essays (800-1000 words) to be assigned later. One letter grade will be deducted for each day a paper is late.
- D. A Shakespearean or Petrarchan sonnet.
- E. A final examination composed of factual and essay questions.
- F. Satisfactory participation in class discussion, which can only be accomplished if the attendance policy is rigorously observed.

III. Grading Practices

The grade will be determined by an evaluation of the entire semester's work, with special emphasis on fulfillment of course objectives. Grading will generally adhere to the following:

Class participation	5%
Quizzes, presentations and in-class writing	15%
Six essays	60%
Final examination	20%

IV. Attendance Policy

- A. Although attendance is not mandatory, it is to the student's distinct benefit to be present in class, and the student will be held responsible for any assignments made when he/she is absent. After three (3) absences, one point will be deducted from the final grade for each additional absence.
- B. Students who are late must assume personal responsibility to see that the record is altered at the end of class. This record will not be changed at a later date.

V. Textbooks

The Norton Introduction to Poetry, 7th edition, by J. Paul Hunter

VI. Weekly Outline of Topics to be Covered

August 31-Sept. 2	Preliminary
September 5-9	Subject, Meaning, Theme <u>Paragraph Due</u>
September 12-16	Tone <u>1st Essay Due</u>
September 19-23	Speaker
September 26-30	Situation and Setting <u>2nd Essay Due</u>
October 3-7	Situation and Setting
October 10-11	Fall Break

VI. Weekly Outline of Topics to be Covered (continued)

October 12-14	Figurative Language <u>3rd Essay Due</u>
October 17-21	Figurative Language
October 24-28	Sound & Meter <u>4th Essay Due</u>
October 31-November 4	Sound & Meter
November 7-11	Stanza & Verse Form
November 14-18	The Whole Poem
November 21	The Whole Poem <u>5th Essay Due</u>
November 23-25	Thanksgiving Recess
November 28-December 2	The Whole Poem
December 5-9	Poetry <u>6th Essay Due</u>
December 12	Last Class
December 21	9 AM - 12 NOON <u>Final Exam</u>

VII. Office Hours

My office is located in Humanities Hall, Room 105, and my office hours are:

Monday - Friday 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

If these hours are ever inconvenient, appointments can be arranged. Please do not hesitate to see me about anything that is of concern to you.

VIII. Honor Code

I assume that you are familiar with the Honor Code and that you know what plagiarism is.