

English 205: Writing About Poetry

Dr. Gretchen Schulz

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Texts:

The Norton Introduction to Poetry, 8th ed. J. Paul Hunter, ed.

The Shakespeare Sonnets. Pelican.

John Donne: Selected Poetry. St. Martin's Press.

Selected Poetry of William Blake. Wordsworth Editions.

Selected Poetry of William Wordsworth. Random House.

The Essential Dickinson. Ecco.

The Essential Whitman. Ecco.

T. S. Eliot: Selected Poems. Harcourt Brace.

a yet-to-be selected text of African-American poets

a yet-to-be-selected text of contemporary women poets

any good handbook (for assistance with grammar and mechanics, the principles of composition, and the principles of the research paper)

any good dictionary

Class Schedule:

Jan. 16 introduction to the course

Jan. 21 Shakespeare

Jan. 23 Shakespeare

Jan. 28 Shakespeare

Jan. 30 Donne

Feb. 04 Donne

Feb. 06 Donne

Feb. 11 Blake

Feb. 13 Blake

Feb. 14 first essay due (10%)

Feb. 18 Wordsworth

Feb. 20 Wordsworth

Feb. 24 first imitation due

Feb. 25 Wordsworth

Feb. 27 Dickinson

Mar. 04 Dickinson

Mar. 06 Dickinson

Mar. 07 second essay due (15%)

SPRING BREAK

Mar. 18 Whitman

Mar. 20 Whitman

Mar. 24 second imitation due

Mar. 25 Whitman

Mar. 27 Eliot

Apr. 01 Eliot

Apr. 03 Eliot
 Apr. 04 third essay due (20%)

Apr. 08 African-American poets
 Apr. 10 African-American poets

Apr. 15 African-American poets
 Apr. 17 presentation of your own poetry

Apr. 22 women poets
 Apr. 24 women poets

Apr. 29 women poets

Apr. 30 fourth essay due by 5:00 p.m. (20%)

May 05 final exam, Monday, 9:00 – 12:00 (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, the successful student 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 1/2 point each off of your final grade in the course. Absence five will count 3 more points off. Each further absence will count 4 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	10%
second essay	15%
third essay	20%
fourth essay	20%
imitation and original poems	05%
final exam	10%
class participation/facilitation	20%

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.