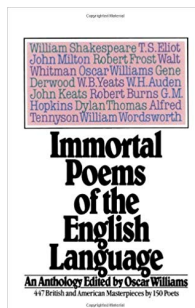
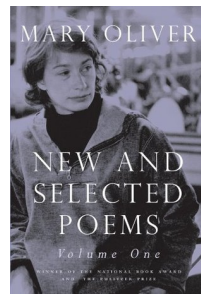


## Required Texts

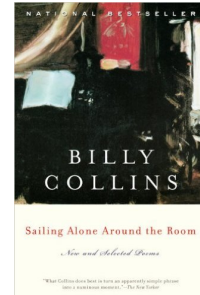
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# POETRY



## Course Objectives

Poetry, like all writing, is an attempt to communicate. Interpreting poetry, then, requires that we do our best to understand what the poet is trying to communicate to us. Because poetry is often *indirect* communication, using figurative language and appealing to the senses more than to logic and reason, it may seem difficult to understand at first. In this course, we will do our

“Poetry is the best  
words in the best  
order”

-Samuel Taylor Coleridge

best to make interpreting poetry feel as familiar and instinctive as listening to music or reading fiction.

All poetry is a response to its particular historical context, a communication to a particular audience at a particular time, but the very best poetry also transcends that context and speaks to all of us in our time.

## Class Business

### Attendance

Because understanding the poetry we read is reliant upon participation in active discussions, attendance is an important aspect of this class. Therefore you will be allowed a maximum of three absences. Your final grade will drop three points for each absence after the third. I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences.

### Deadlines for Assignments

Assignments are due on Canvas on the date specified on the itinerary.

### Academic Integrity

All work submitted in this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course. Since the primary objective for this course is that you learn to interpret poetry easily, you should not be looking up interpretations of the poetry we read, even if it is readily available.

Oxford has an Honor Code, and turning in any assignment for any course means you are agreeing to abide by that Code. It is your responsibility to know and understand that Code, which is in the College Catalog.

### Requirements and Grading

All work will be graded and every assignment will count towards the final grade. I grade on a plus/minus scale. Your final grade for this course will be figured as follows:

- 50% Five 4-page papers on poetry (see sidebar)
- 25% Participation and presentations
- 25% Final Exam

## Assignments

### SHORT PAPERS

One analysis of a single poem

One comparison of two poems

One emoji poem with explanation of your intended meaning

One analysis of a popular song as a poem

One meme based on a poem plus explanation of your choices.

### REFLECTION

We will spend time in class discussing your writing (purpose, audience, conventions) before turning in each paper, and each paper will require some element of reflection on your writing choices.

### PRESENTATIONS

You will be asked to do 2-3 informal presentations:

-Interpreting a classmates emoji poem

-explaining the song you chose to analyze

-showing and leading discussion on your meme

# Itinerary

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## JANUARY

- 16 Definition of Poetry
- 21 Renaissance sonnets (Wyatt "They Flee"; Sidney "Loving"; Spenser "One Day"; Drayton; Shakespeare "Look in thy glass," "Shall I Compare Thee," "That time of Year," and "My Mistress' Eyes" in IP
- 28 Donne; Marvel; Herrick; all in IP
- 30 Shakespeare

## FEBRUARY

- 1 Shakespeare
- 4 Shakespeare
- 6 Blake: *Songs of Innocence*: "Introduction," "The Lamb," "The Chimney Sweeper," "Holy Thursday," "The Little Black Boy." *Songs of Experience*: "Introduction," "Chimney Sweep," "Holy Thursday," "The Tyger." Link under Documents on Canvas; **Emoji poems due**
- 11 **Emoji papers due**: Presentations
- 13 presentations
- 18 Gray: "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard," IP
- 20 Wordsworth: "The World Is Too Much With Us," "Daffodils," "My Heart Leaps Up," "It Is a Beauteous Evening," and "Ode," IP; **Analysis paper due**
- 25 Shelley: "Ozymandias," "Ode to the West Wind," "To a Skylark," and Keats: "Ode to a Nightingale," "Ode on Melancholy," "Ode on a Grecian Urn," IP
- 27 Whitman

## MARCH

- 4 Millay
- 6 Millay; **Comparison Paper due**
- 11-15 **SPRING BREAK**
- 18 Harlem Renaissance
- 20 Harlem Renaissance
- 25 **Song analysis due**; presentations
- 27 Presentations

## APRIL

- 1 Frost
- 3 Ammons, Short Poems
- 8 Ammons, "Corson's Inlet"
- 10 Oliver
- 15 Oliver
- 17 Billy Collins
- 22 Billy Collins
- 24 **Meme papers due**; Presentations
- 29 Presentations