

English 205Q 01J: Poetry
(Satisfies “Inquiry” & “Writing” requirements)

Spring 2012
Oxford College of Emory University

Dr. Clark Lemons
Office: Few 104: M-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 the strengths and weaknesses of your own writing, to improve your writing, and to come to greater understanding of poetry.
- Through informed, and we hope, lively conversation about poems, to practice the art of communication, to learn from others, from your instructor, and from yourself
- Through study of texts alone and in class, through writing and through conversation, to learn the major poetic techniques, something about major poets, and the types and styles of poetry written in the English language
- To learn through guided inquiry to take more and more charge of your own learning about poetry, as well as of your own reading, writing, and speaking.

Guidelines

1. Each absence, after the first two, results in 1 point off your final average. You do not need permission to take the first 2 absences; use them for illness or whatever you believe important. Being late more than a couple of times will result in a grade reduction as well. If you are absent/late, you miss important class work that can't be made up. A note on illness: I suggest you save your 2 cuts, if possible, for illness. No doctor's notes please--if you are seriously ill (more than 2 days in a row which is a week in this class, contact Academic Services and they will notify all your teachers and appropriate arrangements can be made so you won't suffer academically. Laptops can be distracting; please don't use them during class.

2. The final exam will be an in-class essay about some of the poems we've studied and some we've never seen, graded for form as well as content. Date: Thursday, Aug. 5: 8:30-11:00 AM.

3. The six formal papers should be about 3+ pages (about 850 words), except for the first paper. Workshop Days will precede the due date for most papers—these are days we will work together on papers. Complete rough drafts are due on each Workshop Day. Late papers will be reduced one letter grade per 24 hours, beginning at the due date and time. After the first paper is returned, make an appointment for an individual conference; thereafter conferences are optional but usually helpful.

4. Unannounced quizzes over the text assignments occasionally begin the class. They won't be difficult and cannot, in fairness to all, be taken late or made up. Being late will mean that you miss the opportunity to take a quiz. Other brief homework assignments will also count as “quizzes.”

5. The participation part of your grade means you must be willing to speak in class and listen actively to others. Class time is given over to discussion. Each of you must also prepare and present a poem, and the class will have an interactive Blog on Blackboard and you must contribute to that as well.

6. The **HONOR CODE** is in effect for all your assigned work in this class and every Oxford class. Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses. You must submit your own work, not another's, and if you use material other than your own (from the internet, books, etc.) that material must be acknowledged with citations.

7. I will be on campus most days and happy to meet with you whenever if you let me know ahead of time.

8. Follow the syllabus. If there are any changes, they will be announced in class and on the Blackboard site where the syllabus and important handouts, reminders, and updates will also appear.

Texts: David Mason, Western Wind; Janet Gardner, Writing About Literature; & any MLA-based Writing Handbook (The Practical English Handbook or the Bedford, etc.) You must have your own Western Wind and bring it to class everyday—it is the basis for quizzes, discussion, and papers.

Grading Policy: Final 20%, Papers (6) 60%, Discussion-Quizzes-Blog 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.

College Required Statement: “Student work submitted as part of this course may be reviewed by Oxford College and Emory College faculty and staff for the purposes of improving instruction and enhancing Emory education.” (This doesn’t affect your grades or you in anyway; it is a way of evaluating and improving writing classes college wide.)

More Information

Papers: Due approximately every 2 weeks. You may meet with me before a paper is due or after it has been returned for help with your writing. Papers are formal, thesis-thesis centered, and focused; they are thoughtful and supported with evidence. An English handbook will help you do a good job; if you don’t have one, get one or access to one. Papers should be about 3+ pages long, except that the first paper may be as short as 2 pages. If you need help, ask. Email me a question, set up an appointment, or talk to me after class.

Readings: We will do about two chapters of Western Wind per week; specific daily assignments will be announced in class and on the Blackboard site. We will spend more time on some chapters than on others. Specific pages to read 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. On most workshop days and all paper due days, we will also be discussing poems from Western Wind.

Blog: The blog is an online journal that the class creates and has access to. Each student must submit 6 major blog entries and 6 short comments to the entries of other class members in the first half of the semester and the same number in the second half.

Presentations: In the last third of the class, each student will present a poem to the class, preparing a few remarks and leading discussion with prepared questions for the class.

Blog Instructions

Go to: classes.emory.edu. You will be in Blackboard and will see this Eng 205 class. Open, go to Tools, then to Blog Tool. Here you can make an “entry”; others can read it and “comment on it, and you can comment on others’ entries or comments. In this blog, we’ll discuss poems and poetry as a kind of “journal” for the whole class. Enter as many posts and comments as you wish but do at least three entries of one or two paragraphs (5-10 sentences) and 3 comments on entries others have made. You can write whatever you like. Comment on the poems we read, the editor’s comments from Western Wind, what we’ve said in class. You can write personal responses to poems, talk about poetry you write, share some of that poetry with us (to a limit!). I am not much concerned about grammar or organization here—but it’s always a good idea to write (communicate) as clearly and as effectively as you can.

Schedule of Assignments

Jan	19 Introduction	13-15 Spring Break, no class
	24 Chap 1 <u>Western Wind</u> (WW)	20 WW
	26 WW	22 Workshop
	31 Workshop (plus poems)	27 Paper 4 Due
Feb	2 Paper Due (plus poems)	29 WW
	7 WW	Apr 3 WW
	9 WW	5 Workshop
	14 Workshop	10 Paper 5 Due
	16 Paper 2 Due	12 WW
	21 WW	17 WW
	23 WW	19 Workshop
	28 Workshop	24 Paper 6 Due
Mar	1 st -3 rd Spring Play 7:30 pm	26 WW
	1 Paper 3 Due	May 1 WW
	6 WW	9 Final Exam 9-12
	8 WW	