

**English 205Q Poetry 10A**  
(Satisfies Inquiry & Writing requirements)

Spring 2014  
Oxford College of Emory University

Dr. Clark Lemons  
Office: Few 104 M-F 2:30-3:30

**Objectives**

- Through intensive study of poems, to improve your ability to analyze and appreciate poetry
- Through writing, to understand the strengths and weaknesses of your own writing, to improve your it, and to come to greater understanding of poetry by writing about it.
- Through informed, lively conversation about poems, to practice the art of speaking, to learn from others, from your instructor, and from yourself
- To learn, through reading, writing, and discussion, the techniques, types, and styles of English-language poetry, as well as something about major poets
- To learn, through guided inquiry, to take charge of your own learning and to become a good scholar

**Guidelines**

1. The required text is: Mason and Nims, Western Wind, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. McGraw/Hill. You must have ***your own copy*** of the text and bring it to class everyday—it is the basis for discussion, paper workshops, and quizzes.

2. 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 is 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, and your Participation grade will be affected. 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 or 3 classes in a row, contact Academic Services and they will notify all your teachers and arrangements can be made so you won't suffer too much academically.

3. Laptops, phones, etc., can be distracting; please don't use them in class.

4. The final exam is an in-class essay about some of the poems we've studied and some we've not, graded for form as well as content: May 5<sup>th</sup> 9-12 am or May 6<sup>th</sup> 2-5 pm

5. The six formal papers will be 3 - 3 ½ pages, about 850 words, except that the first 2 papers will be 2 pages long. 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.

6. Several announced quizzes will cover poetic techniques and some poems. Other brief homework assignments (if any) may also count under the "Quiz" grade.

7. The participation part of your grade means you must be willing to speak in class and listen actively to others. Class time is mostly discussion. You will also have the opportunity to prepare and present a poem to the class and participate in an interactive Blog on Blackboard.

8. 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, etc.) you'll need citations.

9. I'm on campus most days and happy to meet with you—just let me know ahead of time.

10. Keep up with your assignments. If there are 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:** Mason and Nims, Western Wind. You must have ***your own copy*** of Western Wind and bring it to class everyday—it is the basis for discussion, paper workshops, and quizzes.

**Grading Policy:** Final 20%, Midterm 10%, Papers (6) 60%, Class Participation, Blog, & Quizzes 10% Please keep track of your own grades. I do not average and assign grades until after the final exam.

**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-centered, focused and supported with evidence. An English grammar and writing handbook will help you do a good job; if you don't have one, get one or access to one or borrow one from me. Papers should be about 3+ pages long, except that the first 2 papers may should be 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—depending on chapter length and style of discussion; daily assignments will be announced in class and on the Blackboard site. We will spend more time on some poems and chapters than on others. Reading a whole chapter once and then reviewing specific pages the night before class is a good way to prepare. Read every assignment at least twice before class—and the poems more than twice.

**Presentations:** In the last third of the class, each student will present a poem to the class, prepare introductory remarks and lead discussion.

**The Blog:** You are already enrolled in Blackboard for English 205. You'll see the syllabus, course documents, announcements, and blog. The blog is an online journal for the whole class. Here you read what other class members have said, make an "entry," and "comment" on other entries or comments. Enter as many posts and comments as you want, but make your "entries" one or two full paragraphs (5-10 sentences); "comments" may be shorter but should be a complete thought. Comment on the poems we've read, on the editor's comments from Western Wind, on what we've said in class, on how a poem affected you personally—whatever. I am not concerned about grammar or organization here, but it's always good to write clearly and effectively. You must submit 4 major blog entries and 6 shorter comments on the entries of other class members in the first third of the semester, the same number in the second third, and the same number in the last third of the semester. You may not post more than one "entry" per day (this is so we don't put them all off til the last day or two!)

**Schedule of Assignments:** Specific page assignments in the text will be posted on Blackboard. Check Blackboard every day or so for updates. Papers will be due every two weeks. The class session before a paper is due will be partly devoted to a "paper workshop." Presentation dates will be decided individually and begin after spring break.

**For All Oxford College Classes:** "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 you or your grades; it is a way of evaluating and improving writing classes college wide.)