

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

Spring 2013  
Oxford College of Emory University

Dr. Clark Lemons  
Office: Few 104: M-F 3-4 pm

**Objectives**

- Through intensive study of poems, to improve your ability to analyze and appreciate this 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 in the act of 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. 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.

2. 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 classes in a week, 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 never seen, graded for form as well as content: May 3<sup>rd</sup> 9-12 am.

5. The six formal papers should be about 3+ pages (about 850 words). 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. Two or three announced quizzes will cover poetic techniques and some poems. Other brief homework assignments 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, books, etc.) that material must be acknowledged with citations.

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

10. Follow the syllabus. 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:** David Mason, Western Wind. You must have *your own copy* of Western Wind and bring it to class everyday—it is the basis for quizzes, discussion, and papers.

**Grading Policy:** Final 20%, Papers (6) 60%, Class Participation 10%, Quizzes & Blog 10%.

Keep track of your own grades so you will know how you are doing. I do not average grades until after the final exam.

**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.)

### **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 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; 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.

**Blackboard & Blog:** You are already enrolled in Blackboard for English 205. Here you’ll see syllabus, documents, announcements, and blog. The blog is an online journal of the whole class. Here you read what other class members have said, make an “entry,” yourself, 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 really. I am not concerned about grammar or organization here, but it’s always good to write clearly and effectively. You must submit 6 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.

**Schedule of Assignments:** We will do 1 – 2 chapters a week in Western Wind, depending on chapter length and our own style of discussion. Papers will be due every couple of 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. I will let you know at least 3 or more weeks ahead of the 6 paper due dates. The final exam for this class is Friday, May 3, 2-5 pm.