

**Eng 205: Poetry**  
Oxford College  
Office Hrs: 10-11 MW & 2:30-3:30 daily

Spring 2005  
Dr. Lemons  
Few Hall 104

## Objectives

- Through the experience of studying poetry, to learn how to approach, analyze, and (even) to appreciate the art of poetry.
- Through the act of writing about poetry, to understand more fully the strengths and weaknesses of your own writing and to come to greater understanding of the subject of your writing—poetry
- Through conversation about poems, to practice the verbal art of communicating ideas with the end of greater learning from others, from your instructor, and from yourself
- Through study of texts alone and in class, to learn the major poetic techniques, and something about major poets, types of poetry and styles of poetry.

## Guidelines

1. Each absence, after the first two, counts 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. It is best not to miss any classes, even more so in a class that only meets twice a week. If you are absent/late, it is your responsibility to learn what you missed although that is obviously quite difficult if the class is mostly discussion.

2. The Final exam will consist of an in-class essay, graded for form as well as content; for the essay you will be given poems you will not have seen to write about.

3. The five formal papers should be approximately 800 words in length, about 3 pages each. Workshop Day will precede the due date for each paper. Complete rough drafts are due on Workshop Day, which will be a class or at least part of a class when we can work on our papers together. Late papers will be penalized one letter grade per 24 hours, beginning at the start of class on the due date. The term paper will be 5 pages long and will involve outside sources and documentation. A sheet outlining requirements for that paper is available. After the first paper is returned to you, you must make an appointment with me for a conference; thereafter conferences are optional—but encouraged.

4. Announced or unannounced quizzes are at the beginning of class. No make-up quizzes are possible. The quizzes will not be difficult and will cover the work due that day. I will drop one or two of the quiz grades. Tardiness will mean that you miss the opportunity to take a quiz.

5. The "discussion" part of your grade means you must speak in class. Part of this grade will be your presentation of poems to the class and leading discussion.

6. Some special poems dealing with the death penalty/personal responsibility this semester will be included to coincide with the Dead Man Walking Project.

7. I will be on campus most mornings and afternoons. Feel free to set up an appointment with me to discuss your papers or work in the class.

8. Think of the syllabus as an agreement between us; if you lose yours ask for another.

## Grading Policy

Final 20%, Papers (5) 45%, Term Paper 15%, Discussion 10%, Quizzes-Homework 10%. Keep track of your grades so you will know how you are doing.

(see over)

## Schedule of Assignments

Jan 20 Introduction  
25 Preface & Chp 1  
27 Chp 1  
Feb 1 Chp 2  
3 Workshop  
8 Paper 1 Due  
10 Chp 3  
15 Chp 3  
17 Chp 4  
22 Workshop  
24 Paper 2 Due  
Mar 1 Chp 5  
3 Chp 5  
8 Chp 6  
10 Paper 3 Due  
22 Chp 7  
24 Chp 7  
29 Paper 4 Due  
Apr 5 Chp 8  
7 Chp 8  
12 Paper 5 Due  
14 Chp 9  
19 Chp 9  
21 Chp 10  
26 Term Paper Due  
28 Chp 10  
May 3 Chp 11  
5 2-5 pm: Final Exam

**Papers:** papers will be due approximately every two weeks. You are encouraged to meet with me before a paper is due or after it is returned.

**Readings:** Daily assignments in the texts will be announced in class; the schedule above is a goal, but the reality will be different, depending on how fast we go in class discussion. On the day papers are due, we will be discussing poems from the previous chapter. The Practical English Handbook is a necessity for your paper writing.

**Workshops:** Workshop days will be held the day previous to a paper due date for the first two papers. We will work in small groups on our papers, discuss paper writing techniques as a class, and work individually with the instructor if time permits. You must come with a complete rough draft for these workshops.

**Poem Presentations:** Each student will study and practice beforehand for a presentation to the class which will include reading an assigned poem of his/her choice aloud effectively and leading a 10-20 minute discussion on that poem. If time allows students may volunteer to lead discussion more than once.

