

ENGLISH 205: WRITING ABOUT POETRY

Dr. Christine Loflin

Office: Humanities 204

Phone: 4-4682

Learnlink e-mail: Christine Loflin

Office Hours: MW 9:30-11:30, Tuesday 11:30-12:30 and by appointment

Course objectives: What is poetry? What is good poetry? How has poetry in English been transformed over time? In this class, we will be studying these and other questions, and I will be encouraging you to come up with your own answers in response to the works that we read and to the arguments of literary scholars that we will study. We will begin with Beowulf, the first epic in English, exploring the range of literary approaches to the poem. Then, working roughly chronologically, we will study the basic elements of poetic interpretation: diction, structure, form, meter, and poetic techniques and traditions. By the end of this course, you should be able to read a wide range of poets and literary scholars, create and support an original, intelligent interpretation of a poem, and identify and discuss the variety of literary techniques used in English poetry.

Course Requirements:

- 1) Write four essays.
- 2) Write a formal research paper.
- 4) Attend a poetry reading and write a response
- 5) Participate fully in all classroom work, including written exercises and quizzes.

There will be no makeups for missed classes.

- 6) Complete the midterm and the final examination.

Required:

The Norton Anthology of Poetry

Policies:

Attendance: You should be present for every class and prepared to participate. If you are absent, you are responsible for informing yourself about any missed assignments or announcements, and for material covered during that class. All absences should be for good reason; however, you may miss two classes without explanation. I will lower your grade for every unexcused absence after these two. Excessive absences (more than five) may be cause for dropping you from the class.

Class Participation: This will count for 10% of your grade. For full credit, you will need to attend every class ready to participate. This means not just responding when called on, but coming to class with questions from the reading and topics for discussion, responding to other students' comments on the text, and taking active responsibility for the liveliness and pertinence of discussion.

Plagiarism: In this course, as in all other courses, you are bound by the Honor Code. Therefore, the work you submit for this class must be your own. If you use any outside sources in your writing for this course, you must acknowledge them by using the MLA system of documentation. **All Websites or other Internet sources must be acknowledged and documented.** If you have any questions regarding the Honor Code as it applies to this course, please consult me or pages 100-104 of the Oxford College catalog.

Grade breakdown:

Essays	40%
Research Paper	15%
Class Participation	15%
Poetry reading response	2%
Midterm	8 %
Final Exam	20%

All grades for this course will be recorded using the plus/minus scale described on page 34 of the Oxford College catalog.

Weekly Outline of Topics to be covered:

Thur Aug 30 Introduction and Objectives

Tues Sep 4 *Beowulf* (all of the selection in the anthology); first draft due

Sep 6 *Beowulf*; secondary readings; Old English

Sep 11 Chaucer "The General Prologue" lines 1-310 Homework: write a description of one of the characters in the selections from the General Prologue

Sep 13 Chaucer "The General Prologue" lines 447-860, "Complaint to His Purse" *Beowulf* paper due.

Sep 18 The Lyric: Wyatt "Madam, Withouten Many Words," "They Flee From Me" Marlowe "The Passionate Shepherd to His Love," Raleigh "The Nymph's Reply"

Sep 20 Shakespeare Sonnets 18,29,55,73,116,130

Sep 25 John Donne, "The Sun Rising" "The Canonization" "The Flea" Elegy XIX, Holy Sonnets 7

Sep 27 Mary Wroth "In this strange labyrinth how shall I turn," "Is to leave all and take the thread of Love," "He may our prophet, and our tutor prove" Marvell, "To His Coy Mistress," "The Garden"

Mar 3 Midterm

Mar 6 Romantics

Mar 8 Romantics

Mar 10 no class

March 13-17 Spring Break

Mar 20 Romantics

Mar 22 Romantics Essay #2 due

Mar 24 Modernists

Mar 27 Modernists

Mar 29 Modernists

Mar 31 Modernists Essay #3 due

Apr 3 Postcolonial poetry

Apr 5 Postcolonial poetry

Apr 7 Postcolonial Poetry

Apr 10 Research paper due/Contemporary Poets

Apr 12 Contemporary Poets

Apr 14 Contemporary Poets

Apr 17 Heaney (at Emory)

Apr 19 Heaney

Apr 21 Formal Poems

Apr 24 Poetry of Place

Apr 26 Love Poems

Apr 27 e-poetry Essay #4 due

May 1 Review

Exam: Monday, May 8 2PM