### **English 205 - Writing About Poetry**

Dr. Lucas Carpenter Fall 1998 Semester

#### I. Objectives of the Course

Through class participation, the close reading of assigned literary works, in-class writing exercises and tests, six formal essays (3-5 printed pages), and a final examination, the student will be graded on his/her ability:

- A. To organize and develop ideas through the use of specific information.
- B. To construct outlines illustrating that sufficient material has been gathered and organized according to the laws of unity, emphasis and coherence.
- C. To demonstrate orally and in writing a command of style, sentence structure, paragraph development, grammar, spelling, punctuation and vocabulary.
- D. To write college-level essays which show a mastery of the fundamentals of effective expository and argumentative writing.
- E. To demonstrate a command of library research skills and proper research paper format.
- F. To define the essential characteristics of poetry as a literary genre.
- G. To analyze and explicate a poem.
- H. To define the larger structures of the poems to be read during the course, the various problems these poems present, the literary-historical background against which they appear, and the styles in which they are written.

#### II. Student Requirements for Completing the Course

- A. Brief unannounced quizzes which will be factual in nature. There are no make-ups for missed quizzes.
- B. Several in-class writing assignments and presentations. There are no make-ups for these assignments.
- C. Six formal critical essays (3-5 printed pages) to be assigned later. One letter grade will be deducted for each day a paper is late.
- D. A research paper (8-10 printed pages) to be assigned later. One letter grade will be deducted for each day a research paper is late.
- E. A Shakespearean or Petrarchan sonnet.
- F. A final examination composed of factual and essay questions.

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1

## II. Student Requirements for Completing the Course (continued)

G. Satisfactory participation in class discussion, which can only be accomplished if the a attendance policy is rigorously observed.

#### III. Grading Practices

The grade will be determined by an evaluation of the entire semester's work, with special emphasis on fulfillment of course objectives. Grading will generally adhere to the following:

Class participation	5%
Quizzes, presentations and in-class writing	10%
Six essays	50%
Research paper	15%
Final examination	20%

NOTE: My grading system is A, B, C, D, F. No plus (+) or minus (-) on the final grade.

## IV. Attendance Policy

- A. Although attendance is not mandatory, it is to the student's distinct benefit to be present in class, and the student will be held responsible for any assignments made when he/she is absent. After three (3) absences, one point will be deducted from the final grade for each additional absence.
- B. Students who are late must assume <u>personal responsibility</u> to see that the record is altered at the end of class. This record will not be changed at a later date.

## V. Textbooks

The Norton Introduction to Poetry, 7th edition, by J. Paul Hunter Writing About Literature, 7th edition, by Sylvan Barnet

## VI. Weekly Outline of Topics to be Covered

August 26-28	Preliminary
August 31-September 4	Subject, Meaning, Theme Paragraph Due
September 7-11	Subject, Meaning, Theme
September 14-18	Subject, Meaning, Theme 1st Essay Due
September 21-25	Author, Speaker, Tone

# VI. Weekly Outline of Topics to be Covered (continued)

September 28-October 2

Author, Speaker, Tone

2nd Essay Due

October 5-9

Figurative Language

October 12-13

Mid-Term Break

October 14-16

Figurative Language

3rd Essay Due

October 19-23

The Research Paper

October 26-30

Sound & Meter

4th Essay Due

November 2-6

Stanza & Verse Form

November 9-13

The Whole Poem

5th Essay Due

November 16-20

The Whole Poem

November 23-24

The Whole Poem

6th Essay Due (in-class)

November 25-27

Thanksgiving Recess

November 30-December 4

Wider Contexts

Research Paper Due

December 7

Last Class

December 10-11, 14-16

Final Examinations

#### VII. Office Hours

My office is located in Humanities Hall, Room 105, and my office hours are the following:

Monday - Friday 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

If these hours are ever inconvenient, appointments can be arranged. Please do not hesitate to see me about anything that is of concern to you.

#### VIII. Honor Code

I assume that you are familiar with the Honor Code and that you know what plagiarism is.