

Course Title:

Poetry and Poetics

Course Number and Section

ENGLISH

2230F 550

Instructor Name(s):

John Vanderheide

Instructor Email(s):

john.vanderheide@huron.uwo.ca

Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL Brightspace is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

This course introduces students to a wide range of poetic techniques, forms, and styles. We will pay close attention to how poems use diction, meter, tropes, rhyme, and other formal devices as enabling constraints toward the production not only of meanings but of affects, moods, states of being and verbal music. We will also be discussing and sketching out a little history of poetry in English, from the European dark ages to the global present. From traditional canonical figures to contemporary superstars of the poetry world, we will read celebrated poets and develop an understanding of their historical relationships with each other.

Learning Outcomes: one outcome per entry

- This course is designed to help students develop as critical and creative thinkers and to improve their expression of ideas
- By the end of the course students should be able to talk with some acquired knowledge of prosody and other critical approaches to poetry
- Students should be able to more concretely discuss how choices about form—meter, rhyme, stanza format, et cetera—act as enabling constraints on poets.
- Students should be able to reflect on the interaction between poetic form and poetic theme, how sound and meaning can reflect one another, and draw broader conclusions about language and art.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Poetic Designs, Stephen Adams (Broadview Press, \$43)

Engine Empire, Cathy Park Hong (Norton, \$21)

Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Scansion Exercise	9/29/26	15

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Writing 1 (Schemes and Tropes)	102026	15
Research Assignment	120426	30
Final Exam	122326	30
Attendance and Participation	120426	10

Friday, August 14, 2026

Huron Brief Course Outline 2026/27

In-course Costs \$064.00

For Textbooks and Course Materials (below), you are required to include the cost of each textbook or other learning material.

Note whether there are any restrictions that would prevent a student from using a second-hand copy. Here is some suggested text:

- Required textbook: [author, title, edition, publisher, date]. Cost: [insert amount].
 - Or include the weblink of the textbook’s publisher site that includes the cost information.
- Students need to purchase this edition. Second-hand or older editions will not be sufficient.
- OR Students are welcome to purchase second-hand or earlier editions of this textbook.
- This course has an optional field trip that costs [insert amount].
- This course has a required field component that costs [insert amount].

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.