

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: Poetry and Poetics

Course Number and Section:

ENGLISH

2230G 550

Instructor Name(s): Dr. John Vanderheide

Instructor Email(s): jvande29@uwo.ca

Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL 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 medieval times to the 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:

- This course will help students develop as critical and creative thinkers and improve their expression of their 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.
- Students should develop informed and nuanced ideas about poetry in discussion and writing.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Adams, Stephen Poetic Designs. (\$57 CAD)

Hong, Cathy Park Engine Empire. (\$16 CAD)

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Scansion Exercise	Jan 28, 2025	15%

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Writing 1 (Schemes/Tropes)	Feb 28, 2025	15%
Writing 2 (Research Essay)	April 4, 2025	30%
Final Exam	Final Exam Period	30%
Attendance and Participation		10%

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

Friday, January 24, 2025