

## ***Fall/Winter 2017-2018***

**AP/EN 2100 6.0A (Y)**

### ***Poetry***

**Course Director:**

Lesley Higgins  
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**Delivery Format:**

Lecture

**Time:**

Lecture: Tuesday 10-11:30am  
Tutorials: 11:30am-1pm; 12:30- 2pm; 1:00-2:30pm

**Description:**

From “one fish, two fish” to the latest hit song that you can’t put out of your mind, poetry is language animated. It sings on the page; it cries; it provokes. Poems can move us to tears, to action, to dream, to respond. Developing students’ ability to read poetry with discernment and pleasure, and to understand the cultural, historical, and aesthetic possibilities of poetry, are the main goals of the course. Students will encounter a broad range of texts from different time periods, focusing on generic and thematic connections. We will concentrate on poetry as a social discourse—as cultural practice rather than the personal expression of solitary, anguished, yet special artistes. Among the questions we will address throughout the year: what makes poetry poetry? How do the poem’s genre, form, and structure contribute to or determine how we understand the work’s content? Why has poetry emerged as such an important mode of artistic expression? How can a poem be “a field of action”? How can Percy Bysshe Shelley declare that poets are the “unacknowledged legislators of the world” (Defense of Poetry) but W. H. Auden regretfully state that “poetry makes nothing happen” (“In Memory of W. B. Yeats”)?

The course is informed by two basic learning objectives: developing students’ close reading skills based on the technical/formal fundamentals of poetry, and refining students’ writing skills.

**Category:**

B

**Area:**

6

**Period:**

N/A

**Historical Requirement:**

N/A

**Requirements:**

Fall term: 1 close reading exercise, 600 words (10%); 1 essay, 1500 words (15%), mid-year test (15%). Winter term: 1 close reading exercise, 600 words (10%); 1 essay, 2000 words (15%), final examination (25%); class participation (10%).

**Reading List:**

REQUIRED. *Beowulf*, trans. Seamus Heaney (Norton critical edition); Langston Hughes, *Selected Poems* (Vintage); *Norton Anthology of Poetry* (5th ed.), ed. Ferguson, Salter, and Stallworthy (Norton, 2005).

RECOMMENDED. Chris Baldick, *The Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms* (Oxford UP).

Other texts (available on the Internet, provided in class handouts, or posted on the course Moodle) will be used.

**Open To:**

Yr 2,3