

Summer 2018

AP/EN 2100 3.0 (A)

Poetry

Course Director:

Wolfgang Funk

Delivery Format:

Seminar

Time:

Seminar: Mondays and Wednesdays 4-7pm

Description:

This course will provide a systematic approach to the analysis and interpretation of poetry. Students will be acquainted with essential formal features of the genre such as metre, rhyme, stylistic devices, types of poems, etc. Following this, strategies for combining aspects of form and content will be introduced, applied and practised in order to unlock the "secret life of poems" (Tom Paulin). The texts which we will encounter range from the earliest literary writing in the English language to contemporary poems by Carol Ann Duffy, Kate Tempest and Andrew McMillan. We will use the lens of poetry to inquire into all kinds of thematic aspects, including, as one would expect, love, sex, death and grief, but also politics, sports, soul-searching and the human condition as such.

A special focus will be on the sonnet as the most persistent and at the same time most versatile subgenre in the history of English poetry. We will investigate the specific formal restraints, thematic codes and contextual situations in the long tradition of this form, from its introduction into English culture in the early 16th century up to the present day. Along the way we will encounter some of the greatest poets in the English language (Sidney, Shakespeare, Donne, Wordsworth, Barrett Browning, Owen, Austen, Larkin, Duffy) and discover how the sonnet's productive tension between formal restraint and poetic creativity has been used to explore not only, as one would expect, love, sex, death and grief, but also politics, sports, soul-searching and the human condition as such.

Above all, the aim of this course will be to uncover and revel in the magic of poetic language, its power to condense complex and abstract thoughts and ideas into captivating, moving and delightful lines.

Learning Objectives:

Through their course readings, activities, and assignments, students will:

1. become familiar with the body of English speaking poetry and understand how these texts function formally, thematically and contextually;
2. analyze a wide selection of poems and their function within specific socio-political and cultural contexts;
3. acquire practice in reading and interpreting literary texts critically;
4. advance critical thinking skills, as well as close-reading and essay-writing skills.

Category:	B
Area:	6
Period:	N/A
Historical Requirement:	N/A
Requirements:	<p>Best 2 response papers: 10%</p> <p>In-class presentation: 25%</p> <p>Abstract/thesis proposal for research essay (300 words; includes a tentative works cited list; MLA style): 10%</p> <p>Research essay (2,500 words): 40%</p> <p>Class participation: 15%</p>
Reading List:	<p>Required Purchase:</p> <p>Boland, Eavan, and Edward Hirsch, eds. <i>The Making of a Sonnet: A Norton Anthology</i>. New York: Norton, 2010.</p> <p>Recommended Background Reading:</p> <p>Fry, Stephen. <i>The Ode Less Travelled: Unlocking the Poet Within</i>. London: Arrow Books, 2007.</p> <p>Paulin, Tom. <i>The Secret Life of Poems: A Poetry Primer</i>. London: Faber and Faber, 2008.</p> <p>Spiller, Michael. <i>The Development of the Sonnet: An Introduction</i>. London: Routledge, 1992.</p> <p>Wolosky, Shira. <i>The Art of Poetry: How to Read a Poem</i>. Oxford: OUP, 2008.</p> <p>An additional course kit will provide students with all other required reading.</p>
Open To:	Yr 2, 3