

Spring 1-15-1997

ENG 2011-003: Literature, the Self, and the World: Poetry

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Recommended Citation

Brayfield, "ENG 2011-003: Literature, the Self, and the World: Poetry" (1997). *Spring 1997*. 61.
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2011.3
Brayfield

English Literature 2011 - Literature, the Self, and the World: Poetry

Course Objectives:

Through careful reading, discussion and writing about a variety of poetic works:

- To increase each student's level of skill and confidence in the independent reading and understanding of poetry;
- To help students become more conscious and appreciative of the qualities of language and form that make poetry a special way of expressing and communicating human experiences;
- To help students develop concepts and a vocabulary that will enable them better to explain, discuss, and write about what they discover in poetry;
- To foster an awareness of ways poetry has functioned in the lives of individuals, and in the communal lives of social groups in various times and places;
- To encourage a lifetime curiosity about and enjoyment of poetry.

Course Texts:

- Michael Meyer, Poetry, An Introduction.
- The Norton Anthology of Poetry, 3rd Edition
- Karamu, a Magazine of Literature & Ideas, Volume 14 #1

Course Requirements, Grading, Policies

Students are expected to attend class regularly, prepare reading assignments, participate in class discussions, and keep a notebook of informal essays (NOT a "reading journal"; see description below). In addition there will be one or two hour exams, plus a final.

Grading:

One-third of the term grade will be the letter grade assigned to the completed notebook. (See handout on the "Poetry Notebook" for particulars of how the grade will be determined.)

One-third will be the average grade of the two hour exams and the final, with the final counting double an hour exam.

The remaining third of the term grade will be assigned to class participation, on a Satisfactory (Pass) or Unsatisfactory (Fail)

basis. Participation includes attendance and evidence of having done the assigned readings, as shown through class discussion and informal writings. Attendance will be taken every day; students are expected to attend whenever class meets unless ill. Strings of 3 - 4 absence in a row without excuse, a pattern of weekly cuts, or a large number of total absences will be taken as evidence of a low level of class participation. Failure to turn in written work, gross negligence of reading, carelessness with regard to deadlines and the like, will also indicate unsatisfactory participation.

Students whose participation is judged Unsatisfactory will be assigned an "F" on that component of their grades (1/3). Satisfactory participation will be graded "Pass" and will not change the student's grade average either way, except that in the event their average is between two letter grades, a high level of participation will argue for the higher grade.

Allowance for Possible Modification of Course Work as Described:

Occasional unannounced quizzes may be given if deemed necessary to promote more careful reading/preparation. Any other change in the amount and type of work required for the course, should the teacher deem it necessary, will not add substantively to the amount of work described above, and will be announced in a timely manner. It is the responsibility of the student to find out the assignment each day, including days they are absent for any reason; not knowing what the assignment is, once it has been announced, is not an acceptable excuse.

Make-up Policies:

Daily notebook assignments must be handed in before class begins on the day they are due to be eligible for full credit. Daily work that is late for any reason should not be handed in separately, but placed in the poetry notebook to be evaluated at the end of the semester, along with an explanation of why it was not done on time. It may be penalized somewhat for its lateness.

Exams must be taken as scheduled except for verifiable illness or other valid excuse as determined by the instructor. The student must take the initiative to confer with the instructor and determine if the work may be made up, and if so, to set an acceptable time. Make-up work should be done as soon as possible, preferably before the graded exams of the whole class are returned.

Conferences:

Your instructor is available to confer on any matters related to the course work, at posted office hours and by appointment. Students having difficulty with the work are encouraged to make an appointment to discuss matters with the instructor as soon as possible.

The initiative lies with the student. Conferring with the instructor to clear up difficulties is a sign of involvement and concern on the student's part.

Students with Disabilities:

Every effort will be made to adapt course arrangements to your special needs. If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodation, please contact the coordinator of disability services (581-6583) as soon as possible.