

English 3344—American Poetry from 1900

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Course Description

This course is a survey of American poetry from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. We will be examining a wide range of poetic schools and techniques and tracing lines of influence among numerous modern and contemporary American poets.

Required Texts

The Norton Anthology of Modern and Contemporary Poetry, Volumes 1 and 2 (Eds. Ramazani, Ellman, O'Clair)

I will be pointing you to a variety of journals and web resources related to modern and contemporary American poetry throughout the semester. These are available on the web or through the UTEP library databases.

Because careful reading is one of the goals of this course, I strongly recommend that you have a good college dictionary at your side while reading in order to look up unfamiliar terms and references. I would particularly recommend that you make use of the *Oxford English Dictionary Online*, which is available through the UTEP library web page.

For information on MLA format, grammar, punctuation, clarity, organization, and editing, I recommend the following site: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>

Course Requirements

Exams

You will take three exams this semester, each of which will include identifications, terminology, and contextual data that we have studied in relation to twentieth-century American poetry. Each exam will be worth **20%** of your course grade.

Critical Essays

You will write two papers (each 5-6 pages, or a minimum of 1500-1800 words, exclusive of works cited) for this class. A detailed assignment sheet for each essay will be provided early in the semester. The papers must be formatted according to the standards of the eighth edition of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. Any deviation from the formatting and documentation guidelines in this handbook will result in a substantial reduction in your final grade. Your paper should also show evidence of careful planning and organization and thorough editing and revision. Papers that do not address all components of the assignment, do not meet length requirements, do not show signs of careful planning and editing, or do not conform to MLA formatting guidelines will not be considered to have fulfilled the requirements of the assignment and will be graded accordingly.

The pages must be stapled together. Failure to staple the pages will result in a reduction of the final grade. Save copies of your paper in case any assignments are lost or damaged. It is your responsibility to provide a duplicate. Late essays will not be accepted for any reason, so be sure that you plan to complete the essay early and to be revising it and editing it during the last couple of days before it is due. Each essay will be worth **20%** of your final grade.

Grades

A=90-100%

B=80-89%
C=70-79%
D=60-69%
F=0-59%

Attendance Policy

Because much of the course is based on in-class discussion, work and instruction, you are expected to be here every day, on time, and for the entire class session. Students who miss class can expect to miss material that will be an important part of the exams and the papers, and thus frequent absence will most likely correlate with a low grade or even failure in the course. On the rare occasion when missing or being late to class is unavoidable, you are responsible for getting the missed information from another student. Students who miss more than four class sessions may have their overall grade for the course reduced by $\frac{1}{2}$ a letter grade for each additional session missed.

Late Work

I will not accept late work. If you know you are going to miss a class on the day an assignment is due, turn in your work early. If you did your work and simply forgot to bring it to class, it will be considered late and I will not accept it. Please do not tell me that you are unable to submit an assignment on time because of computer problems; make sure you back up your work sufficiently so that such crises do not arise. Exams will be given on the date and time scheduled and may not be made up.

Originality of Work

The work you do for this course must be your own. No credit will be given for any un-cited material from an outside source. If you appear to have deliberately committed plagiarism, your case will be referred to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.

Email Etiquette

Email is a useful tool if you have questions for me, and emailing me is generally the easiest and most efficient way to make contact outside class. Given that this is a university setting, you should recognize that your emails are documents that represent you professionally, and therefore should rise to certain standards of professional decorum. There are some basic guidelines that you should follow, both in my class and in your other classes.

1. All emails should have a clear subject heading.
2. All emails should have a clear, courteous salutation. "Dear Dr. Yothers:" or "Dear Professor Yothers:" would be appropriate in the case of this class.
3. All emails written for professional purposes should adhere to standard grammar, punctuation, and capitalization.
4. All emails should be signed with your name (otherwise, your reader may not know who you are!)
5. Emails should be sent from your UTEP account. If you do use another account, be sure that the name on the account is appropriate for professional interactions.
6. If there are any attachments, you should explain your reason for sending them and indicate the program in which they were written. In general, your attachments should take the form of Word documents or PDFs.
7. You should consider your rhetorical context when emailing. What is the purpose of your email, and how can you most effectively accomplish that purpose? Three particularly important matters to keep in mind are brevity, clarity, and courtesy. If your email is not clear, specific, and to the point, you may not elicit the response you desire. If your email is discourteous, you diminish the professionalism of the persona you present to others. To cite just one example, some professors find emails that include calls for action "ASAP" to be discourteous or even presumptuous.

Emails that do not meet the standards of professionalism, clarity, and courtesy outlined above will be disregarded.

Schedule

Please note that this schedule is subject to revision. I will provide ample notice if there are any changes. Unless I announce otherwise, you should plan to read all selections, both poetry and prose, for the assigned author(s) for a given day.

<u>Date</u>		<u>Readings/Assignments</u>
January 22	W	Introduction
January 27	M	Natasha Trethewey (online) "Elegy for the Native Guards," "Miscegenation," "History Lesson,"
January 29	W	Tracy K. Smith, (online) "Wade in the Water," "Declaration," "Duende," "I Will Tell You the Truth About This, I Will Tell You All About It" (video excerpt on PBS)
February 3	M	Edgar Lee Masters; Edward Arlington Robinson; James Weldon Johnson
February 5	W	Gertrude Stein; Amy Lowell
February 10	M	
February 12	W	Ezra Pound, "A Pact," "In a Station at the Metro," "With Usura" T. S. Eliot, "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock," "The Waste Land," "Little Gidding"
February 17	M	William Carlos Williams, Robert Frost
February 19	W	Wallace Stevens, Hart Crane
February 24	M	H.D., Marianne Moore, Dorothy Parker, E. E. Cummings
February 26	W	Exam 1
March 2	M	Langston Hughes; Countee Cullen
March 4	W	Theodore Roethke; W. H. Auden
March 9	M	Randall Jarrell; John Berryman
March 11	W	Elizabeth Bishop, Robert Lowell First paper due
March 16	M	Spring Break
March 18	W	Spring Break
March 23	M	Gwendolyn Brooks
March 25	W	Richard Wilbur, Denise Levertov
March 30	M	Anthony Hecht, Robert Hayden
April 1	W	Exam 2
April 6	M	Allen Ginsburg; Gary Snyder
April 8	W	John Ashberry; W. S. Merwin; James Wright
April 13	M	Derek Walcott; Kamau Brathwaite; Agha Shahid Ali
April 15	W	Sylvia Plath; Adrienne Rich; Anne Sexton
April 20	M	Audre Lorde; Rita Dove; Lorna Dee Cervantes
April 22	W	Leslie Marmon Silko; Gary Soto; Michael Ondaatje, Margaret Atwood
April 27	M	Jorie Graham; Mark Doty; Mark Strand Second paper due

April 29	W	Marilyn Chin; Li-Young Lee; Sherman Alexie
May 4	M	Tracy K. Smith, Natasha Trethewey, Terrance Hayes
May 6	W	Exam 3
May 13 4:00-6:45	W	Pick up second paper and Exam