Introduction to Poetry—Fall 2015

LIT 120.01—MWF 11:10-12:00—LA 202

LIT 120.02—MWF 10:10-11:00—LA 244

Henrietta Goodman—COR 337—Office Hours—MWF 1:10-2:00 (and by appt)
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Course Description:
The course serves as an introduction to reading and writing about poetry. The course will deepen your understanding and appreciation of poetry as a thriving contemporary art through close reading and daily discussion. You will read and discuss poems from a variety of movements and in a variety of modes (both historical and contemporary), and you will use methods of analysis/interpretation including reader-response, formal analysis, and comparison/contrast. Since this is a UM-approved lower-division writing course, you will learn to apply the techniques of literary analysis in well-supported and well-structured critical essays. The learning outcomes for W-courses at UM are as follows:

- Formulate and express opinions and ideas in writing
- Compose written documents that are appropriate for a given audience or purpose
- Revise written work based on constructive feedback
- Find, evaluate, and use information effectively
- Begin to use discipline-specific writing conventions
- Demonstrate appropriate English language usage
- Use writing to learn and synthesize new concepts

Course Requirements:
You will write three short papers (3-4 pages) and one slightly longer paper (4-5 pages). You are required to revise one of these papers and may revise any/all of them except for paper 4. Since time constraints at the end of the semester do not allow for revision of paper 4, I recommend that you discuss this paper with me during your writing process. Papers must be typed (double-spaced, with 1” margins and 12 pt. font). I will provide detailed written instructions, including due dates and grading criteria, for each paper.

You will also have frequent informal writing assignments, and you will give an oral presentation on a poet/concept/movement. You will take a midterm and a final exam.

This course is most engaging and productive when it is primarily discussion-based, rather than lecture-based. For this reason, preparedness for class and participation in daily discussions are essential.

Grading:
Papers----------------------------------------------50%
Participation and informal writing----------20%
Oral presentation------------------------10%
Midterm and final exam (10% each)-------20%

**Late Paper Policy:**
Papers should be submitted at the beginning of class on the day they are due. I will accept only printed papers (no emailed papers, please). For each day that a paper is late, the grade for the paper will drop by 5 points (half a letter-grade).

**Attendance:**
You are allowed three absences without penalty. Each additional absence will cause your course grade to drop by half of a letter grade (5 points per absence). Under extreme circumstances, please speak with me.

**Academic Honesty:**
Plagiarism is the use of another person’s words or ideas without attribution and is a violation of the Student Conduct Code. Since most plagiarism is accidental, rather than deliberate, we will spend some class time addressing the appropriate use of quoted (and other “borrowed”) material.

**Extra Credit:**
Many UM-sponsored readings and other local literary events will take place during the semester. To receive extra credit, you may attend a pre-approved event and submit a one-page typed response. This is an excellent way to compensate for an absence or late paper or to raise your participation grade.

**Texts:**