

ENGL 2303-10: Topics in Literature: **American Poetry**

Fall 2017

T/Th 11-12:20

Trimble Hall (TH) 20

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:30-3:30pm and by appointment

Course Description: This course introduces students to the study of poetry through an examination of major American poems. Students will learn to apply basic terms, concepts, and methods of poetic interpretation as they explore the history of poetry in the United States from the nineteenth century to the present.

UTA Core Curriculum Requirements: This course satisfies the University of Texas at Arlington core curriculum requirements in Language, Philosophy, and Culture. The required objectives of these courses are the development of students' critical thinking, communication skills, personal responsibility, and social responsibility. Many elements of this course foster development of these objectives, which are explicitly addressed in the "Signature Assignment." The Departmental general guidelines for sophomore literature can be found by typing "sophomore literature" in the "Search UT Arlington" box on the University website:

<http://www.uta.edu/uta>.

Course Goals

- To encourage students to see that literary studies matter and to foster enjoyment of literature, as students engage with ideas and beliefs in ways that extend beyond the English classroom.
- To help students recognize that literature does not occur as isolated literary events, but as a complex dialogue with cultural and historical contexts.
- To develop students' ability to read critically by studying a variety of literary elements such as form, structure, and style.
- To enable students to demonstrate their understanding of literary texts and their ability to analyze such texts in writing, in online discussions, and through class discussions.

Learning Outcomes: By the end of the semester, students should be able to do the following:

- Demonstrate their knowledge of relevant poetic terms and concepts.
- Explain and analyze how context shapes the composition, reception, and interpretation of poems.

- Demonstrate their ability to discuss poetry using textual evidence to support assertions.
- Develop “they say, I say” arguments employing secondary criticism.
- Use correct MLA documentations of primary and secondary sources.

Required Books:

- 1) Rita Dove, ed. *Penguin Anthology of Twentieth-Century American Poetry*. Penguin, 2011. ISBN-13: 9780143121480
- 2) Edward Hirsh, ed. *Best American Poetry 2016*. Scribner, 2016. ISBN-13: 9781501127557
- 3) Gerald Graff and Cathy Berkinstein, *They Say/I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing*. 3rd edition. Norton, 2014. ISBN-13: 9780393935844

Additional reading materials will be provided through Blackboard.

COURSE POLICIES

Grade Policy/Requirements:

They Say Summaries (5) = 5%
 Explications (3) = 10%
 New Poem exercises (2) = 10%
 Test = 20%
 Essay #1 (Signature Assignment) = 30%
 Essay #2 = 25%

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations with due dates: The major assignment of the class is the Signature Assignment (Essay #1), an argumentative essay with a research component (4-6 pages). Students will also write a shorter essay (Essay #2; 3-4 pages) and complete an in-class essay test. Due dates are indicated on the Reading and Assignment Schedule below. All requirements and due dates are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

Attendance Policy: At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator in student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students’ academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, my attendance policy is outlined below. However, while UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients “begin attendance in a course.” UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via

Blackboard. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

The attendance policy for this course is as follows:

Attendance is mandatory and late arrival is not acceptable. I will take attendance in every class.

Perfect Attendance	Students who attend every class (have 0 absences and no late arrivals) will have 2 additional points <i>added</i> to their final course grade. Any absences, including excused absences, will exclude the student from these bonus points.	
Allowed Absences	Students are granted 3 unexcused absences during the semester without penalty.	
Unexcused Absences	Any additional absences will result in a loss of points as detailed below. <i>Points will be deducted from the student's final course grade.</i>	
	# of Unexcused Absences	Points Deducted
	1-3	0
	4	3
	5	5
Excused Absences	<i>DO NOT claim excused absences until you have exceeded your 3 allowed absences.</i> In order to claim an excused absence, you must submit written confirmation (copy of doctor's note, written excuse, etc.) that clearly states your name and the date(s) you were absent. Do not submit absence paperwork over email. Only a limited number of excused absences will be granted.	
Excessive Absences	Excessive Absences (6 or more) will result in an automatic F in the course.	

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study: Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional **nine hours per weeks** of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

Late Policy: All assignments will be accepted late with a deduction of 5 points per class day and 10 points per weekend, with the exception of the They Say Summaries and Essay #2, which must be submitted on time. A missed test can be made up, but

the burden falls upon the student to make the necessary arrangements. Any work completed in class (such as the New Poem exercises) cannot be made up if missed.

Technology in the Classroom Policy: I reserve the right to ask students to put away laptops, tablets, e-book readers, and/or phones. Typically I will do so if we are doing work for which access to technology is neither useful nor beneficial or if technology use is causing distraction. I encourage students to educate themselves about the effect that technology use has upon the learning process, including the cognitive overload that occurs when people try to multitask using their phones or other devices. Some information worth reflecting on:

“The Net’s cacophony of stimuli short-circuits both conscious and unconscious thought, prevents our minds from thinking either deeply or creatively ... The more we use the web, the more we train our brains to be distracted.” – Nicholas Carr, *The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains* (2010)

Studies show that just having a cell phone visible in a room—even if the phone is not in use—made people less likely to develop a sense of intimacy with others or to be able to participate in meaningful conversations.

– Przybylski and Weinstein, “Can you Connect with me Now? How the Presence of Mobile Communication Technology Influences Face-to-face Conversation Quality.” *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships* 2012.

“Task switching,” such as switching between taking notes and checking a text message, may appear to be a swift and seamless process but, in fact, it comes with cognitive costs including a “resumption lag” as the brain struggles to refocus on the original task. It may take the brain **as long as 25 minutes** to regain focus after a very brief interruption.

– Clark, “The Impact of Digital Multitasking on Student Learning” <http://tinyurl.com/gsys2cg> and Dzubak, “Multitasking: The Good, The Bad, and The Unknown” <http://tinyurl.com/h4j5u3p>

Extra Credit: I offer Extra Credit to students who attend specific on-campus events. I will announce these events in class and on Blackboard. For details, see the “Extra Credit Policy” document on Blackboard.

Library & Research Assistance: University-level research requires university-level sources. Appropriate sources include scholarly and peer-reviewed journal articles, scholarly books, and credible news magazines and newspapers. The UTA Library <http://library.uta.edu/> offers a plethora of resources and subject specialists to help you select and locate appropriate sources. Find library staff at the Service Zone on the first floor of the UTA Central Library, by phone at (817) 272-3395, by text at (817) 727-8395, email at AskUs@uta.edu, or the chat widget on the library’s homepage, <http://library.uta.edu/>. For a list of useful guides to help you start your research, visit: <http://libguides.uta.edu/>.

Your librarian is Diane Shepelwich, dianec@uta.edu. Diane is available through email, individual or group meetings, or phone appointments. If you need help getting started with your research or course assignment or have questions along the way, please contact Diane for personalized research assistance.

The English Writing Center (Central Library room 411): The Writing Center Offers free tutoring in 20-, 40-, or 60-minute face-to-face and online sessions to all UTA students on any phase of their UTA coursework. Our hours are 9 am to 8 pm Mon.-Thurs., 9 am-3 pm Fri. and Noon-6 pm Sat. and Sun. Register and make appointments online at <http://uta.mywconline.com>. Classroom Visits, workshops, and specialized services for graduate students are also available. Please see www.uta.edu/owl for detailed information on all our programs and services.

The Library's 2nd floor Academic Plaza offers students a central hub of support services, including IDEAS Center, University Advising Services, Transfer UTA and various college/school advising hours. Services are available during the library's hours of operation. <http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza>

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

Disability Accommodations: UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a letter certified by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or

accommodations by contacting: The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD) www.uta.edu/disability or calling 817-272-3364. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at <http://www.uta.edu/disability>.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS): <http://www.uta.edu/caps/> or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

Non-Discrimination Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos.

Title IX Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington ("University") is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. For information regarding Title IX, visit <http://www.uta.edu/titleIX> or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or jmhood@uta.edu.

Academic Integrity: Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code in their courses by having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University. Additional information is available at <https://www.uta.edu/conduct/>.

Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Campus Carry: Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in face-to-face and online classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” are directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback via the SFS database is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. Students’ anonymity will be protected to the extent that the law allows. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law and aggregate results are posted online. Data from SFS is also used for faculty and program evaluations. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: For semester-long courses, a period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabus. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Emergency Exit Procedures: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located [to be announced in class]. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the

stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

Student Support Services: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>.

University Tutorial & Supplemental Instruction (Ransom Hall 205): UTSI offers a variety of academic support services for undergraduate students, including: 60 minute one-on-one tutoring sessions, Start Strong Freshman tutoring program, and Supplemental Instruction. Office hours are Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm. For more information visit <http://www.uta.edu/utsi> or call 817-272-2617.

The IDEAS Center (2nd Floor of Central Library): offers FREE tutoring to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. Students can drop in, or check the schedule of available peer tutors at <http://www.uta.edu/IDEAS>, or call (817) 272-6593.

ENGL 2303 Reading & Assignment Schedule

All requirements and due dates are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

All reading is from the *Penguin Anthology of Twentieth Century American Poetry*, unless otherwise indicated. BB = Available on Blackboard

8/24	Introduction
8/29	How to Read a Poem I; bring <i>Penguin Anthology</i> to class
8/31	How to Read a Poem II; bring <i>Penguin Anthology</i> to class
9/5	Explication 1 due Whitman, "Song of Myself" (BB) Online resource: http://www.laits.utexas.edu/leavesofgrass/
9/7	Whitman, cont.
9/12	Dickinson, poems (BB)
Sept. 13 Greg Brownderville Poetry Reading at UTA	
9/14	Dickinson, cont.
9/19	Explication 2 due Pound, "In a Station of the Metro" (54); Eliot, "Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" (76)
9/21	Explication 3 due Williams, all poems except "Asphodel" (39); Cummings, all poems (98)
9/26	Stevens, "Thirteen Ways," "Anecdote of the Jar," "Emperor of Ice-Cream" (31)
9/28	New Poem Exercise #1 (completed in class); bring <i>Penguin Anthology</i> to class
10/3	McKay, all poems (93); Hughes, all poems (127)
10/5	New Poem Exercise #2 (completed in class); bring <i>Penguin Anthology</i> to class
10/10	Nelson, "I Sit and Sew" (28); Rich, "Planetarium" and "Valediction" (293);

	Clifton, "homage to my hips" (335); Dove, "Daystar" (488)
10/12	Test (bring <i>Penguin Anthology</i> to class)
10/17	Explication 3 [first option] due Graff & Berkinstein, <i>They Say/I Say</i> , Parts 1 and 2
10/19	"They Say" Summaries 1 & 2 due
10/24	"They Say" Summaries 3 & 4 due
10/26	"They Say" Summary 5 due
10/31	Writing Workshop: Developing an "I Say" Argument
Nov 1 Last Day to Drop	
11/2	Writing Workshop: Structuring an "They Say, I Say" Essay
11/7	Student conferences
11/9	Student conferences
Essay #1/Signature Assignment due Saturday 11/11 by midnight	
11/14	<i>Best American Poetry 2016</i> : Elegy Fragos, "Sadness of Clothes" (37); Kane, "As If" (71); Lee, "Folding a Five-Cornered Star" (86); Lux, "Ode Awaiting Execution" (104); Mariani, "Psalm for the Lost" (106)
Nov. 15 Natalie Diaz Poetry Reading at the Latino Cultural Center	
11/16	<i>Best American Poetry 2016</i> : Aging Bialosky, "Daylight Savings" (6); Duhamel, "Humanity" (26); Fancher, "When I turned fourteen" (34); Howard, "85 Off & On" (63)
11/21	Explication 3 [second option] due <i>Best American Poetry 2016</i> : Sunrise/Sunset Hutchingson, "Morning Tableau" (66); Jackson, "Aubade" (67); Phillips, "First Last Light" (116); Richardson, "Late Aubade" (119)

11/23	Class cancelled: Thanksgiving Holiday
11/28	<i>Best American Poetry 2016</i> : Water Diaz, "How the Milky Way" (24); Everwine, "Kiskiminetas River" (32) Gerstler, "Drop of Seawater" (38); Marquart, "Lament" (108)
11/30	Reading TBA
12/5	Last Day of Class
Essay #2 due by Tuesday Dec. 12 by noon	

Emergency Phone Numbers: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone), **2-3003** (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381