

Course Objectives/Course Outline
Spokane Community College

Course Title: Introduction to Poetry
Prefix and Course Number: ENGL& 113

Course Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, a student should be able to:

- Read and analyze, discuss and understand the themes, the craft and the history of the poetry genre.
- Analyze, discuss and write about a diverse selection of poems which offer a variety of experiences.
- Understand the way poets manipulate language to create meaning.

Course Outline:

I. Reading Poetry

A. What is a poem?

1. Traditional attributes
2. Contemporary trends

B. How do we read and understand a poem?

1. Paraphrase to comprehend the literal level
2. Explication to unfold a poem's literal and figurative meanings
3. Analysis of the elements of poetry: diction, tone, imagery, figurative language, sound, form, themes

II. Focus on Contemporary Poetry

A. Reading poems individually

(Poets to be considered potentially include Kim Addonizio, Sherman Alexie, Robert Bly, John Brehm, Billy Collins, Stephen Dunn, Nikky Finney, Ray Gonzalez, Jane Hirshfield, Li-Young Lee, Jennifer Maier, Naomi Shihab Nye, Sharon Olds, Natasha Trethaway, Ron Wallace)

B. Reading poems in collections

(Collections to be considered potentially include Tony Hoagland's *Donkey Gospel*, Marie Howe's *What the Living Do*, Dorianne Laux's *Smoke*, Maya Jewell Zeller's *Rust Fish*)

III. Making Connections Formally and Thematically to Poetic Lineage: The History of Poetry

A. Oral Tradition

B. Written Tradition

1. Renaissance

(poets to be considered potentially include Francesco Petrarch, William Shakespeare, John Donne)

2. Romantic Age

(poets to be considered potentially include Samuel Coleridge, William Wordsworth, Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson)

3. Victorian Age

(poets to be considered potentially include Alfred Lord Tennyson, Elizabeth Browning, Robert Browning, Matthew Arnold)

4. Imagism

Print Date: 5/9/16

(poets to be considered potentially include Ezra Pound, William Carlos Williams, H.D., Amy Lowell)

5. Modernism

(poets to be considered potentially include Robert Frost, T.S. Eliot, Wallace Stevens, W.B. Yeats, Langston Hughes, Elizabeth Bishop)

6. The Beats

(poets to be considered potentially include Allen Ginsberg, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Gary Snyder, Anne Waldman)

7. Confessionals

(poets to be considered potentially include Sylvia Plath, Anne Sexton, Robert Lowell, Sharon Olds)