

Preliminary Web Course Description

*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: ENGL*4880	Course Title: 20 th and 21 st Century Poetry	Date of Offering: F 22
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Course Instructor: D. O'Quinn	Course Format: Seminar
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Brief Course Synopsis:

This course offers an introduction to some of the major currents of contemporary verse. As such it can be neither comprehensive nor intensive, therefore texts have been chosen primarily as case studies. After brief considerations of modulations in poetic discourse from the early 1960s to the first years of the 21st century, the course is going to zero in on poets whose work incorporates, reframes, and re-imagines previous discourse—poetic and otherwise. For example, we will be looking at Susan Howe's engagement with Emily Dickinson, Honoree Jeffers's re-imagining of the life and work of Phyllis Wheatley Peters, and Bernadette Mayer's eccentric translations of Catullus. What this means is that we will be reading poems and texts written last year and hundreds of years ago. The demands on your reading will be extensive because many of the texts chosen are extraordinarily difficult. The evaluation of the course is somewhat unusual in that it's written component is largely detached from seminar life. Students will be engaged in a semester long project on a specific poet, movement or on a specific problem in poetics. This will allow students to develop interests not covered by the course syllabus and will open up time for class discussion. This will be important because a significant part of your grade will be based on class participation. I intend to run the seminar as a workshop in reading and will be demanding regular and sustained oral contributions.

This class meets the requirements for American Literature.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Seminar Questions/Presentations (15%)
Close Reading (15%)
Podcast (20%)
Final Research Project Proposal (10%)
Prospectus (20%)
Final Paper (25%)

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)

Many of the resources will be available on the web.

[Optional] Paul Hoover, *Postmodern American Poetry 2nd edition* Norton 978-0393310900

Harryette Mullen, *Sleeping with the Alphabet*

Claudia Rankine, *Citizen*

Lyn Hejinian, *My Life*

Susan Howe, *My Emily Dickinson/Concordances*

Diane Seuss, *frank: sonnets*

Bernadette Mayer, *The Bernadette Mayer Reader*

Anne Carson, *The Beauty of a Husband*

M. Nourbese Philip, *Zong!*

Honorée Fanonne Jeffers, *The Book of Phyllis*

Muriel Rukeyser, *The Book of the Dead*

Mark Nowak, *Coal Mountain Elementary*

I'm going to work from the assumption that students will use Poetry Foundation's « Poetry Tool » at <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/archive/poetrytool.html> to familiarize themselves with the biographies of the poets we will be studying. You can quickly go to poet pages and read a succinct account of a poet's career. The sites often have valuable links to other materials including recorded readings and bibliographies

In general, contemporary poetry is extremely well represented on the web. Here are a few really helpful sites :

-The Electronic Poetry Center at SUNY Buffalo has amazing materials. The easiest access point is <http://epc.buffalo.edu/authors/>

-Pennsound offers readings dating back to the late fifties. Definitely check this out : <http://www.writing.upenn.edu/pensound/>

-Al Filreis at the University of Pennsylvania is one man resource : <http://writing.upenn.edu/pensound/x/Filreis.html>

-Take a look at these reprints : <http://english.utah.edu/eclipse/projects/authors.html>

Information about mode of delivery (synchronous/asynchronous/other details):

We will be meeting in person.

*Students who registered at the University of Guelph after Fall 2018 must fulfill the “new” major and minor requirements. Students who registered at the University of Guelph prior to Fall 2018 must fulfill the requirements of the Calendar in effect when they first enrolled unless they have filed a Schedule of Studies Change Request to change to the 2018-2019 calendar. For more information, please consult the major and minor checklists at <https://www.uoguelph.ca/arts/sets/undergraduate/english/current-student-information>.