

**FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
ENGL 239 L07: SPECIAL TOPICS FALL 2012
CONTEMPORARY POETRY**

Instructor: Aaron Giovannone

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Office hours: MW 11am-12pm and by appointment

Course description:

This course will introduce students to a wide variety of contemporary poetry. (For our purposes, “contemporary” means from approximately the last fifty years.) I anticipate that our discussions will include, but not be limited to, the following topics as they intersect with the concerns of the poems we study: form, voice, narrative, gender, culture, class, sexuality. In addition to the required text, *The Norton Anthology of Modern and Contemporary Poetry, 3rd Edition*, we will make use of audio and video resources available on the websites *PennSound*, *UbuWeb*, and *Poetry Foundation*. During this course students will develop their abilities to read attentively and to make coherent, creative arguments. Evaluation will be based on three “position papers” (explained in more detail below), a group presentation, five surprise in-class writing assignments, and overall class participation.

Required Texts:

***The Norton Anthology of Modern and Contemporary Poetry, 3rd Edition.* (Editors Jahan Ramazani, Richard Ellmann, Robert O’Clair)**

Assignments and Evaluation:

% of Final Grade

Position paper 1 (2 pages).....	20%
Position paper 2 (2 pages)	20%
Position paper 3 (2 pages).....	20%
Surprise writing assignments (3% each, total of 5).....	15%
Presentation (in a group of 3 or 4).....	15%
Class participation.....	10%

There will be no Registrar-scheduled exam for this course. All written assignments must be completed to qualify for a passing grade.

Grading system:

University of Calgary’s official grading system

A+/A (4.0); A- (3.7); B+ (3.3); B (3.0); B- (2.7); C+ (2.3);C (2.0); C- (1.7); D+ (1.3); D (1.0); F (0)

About Position Papers:

Like an essay, a position paper presents **an argument** as well as a detailed **analysis** of a poem or several poems. However, unlike an essay, position papers do not include lengthy introductions and conclusions. Furthermore, there is no set limit to the number of points you may discuss (i.e. you are not required to make three points as in the classic high school essay.) A position paper includes: a) your argument

explained in one or a few sentences (this is your **thesis statement**,) b) an analysis of the poem, which makes one or several points, and c) a brief conclusion, which may be just one or a few sentences long.

About Surprise Writing Assignments:

Five times during the semester, you will be asked to complete during class time a written answer to a question about that day's assigned reading or a related topic. This assignment will be handed in for evaluation at the end of class. You might consider these the equivalent of "pop quizzes." These assignments will be graded out of 3, corresponding to the 3% of your total grade each one is worth. You will receive a 1/3 for completion, 2/3 for adequate argument and analysis, 3/3 for strong argument and analysis.

About Group Presentations:

Working in groups of three or four, you will be responsible for presenting to the class on an assigned reading. Presentations can take many forms. You may present historical and contextual material on our reading, offer your own analysis of the text(s), ask questions to the class and facilitate discussion, design a group activity, or combine several of these things. Student-led presentations should last about twenty minutes. I will pass around a sign-up sheet at the beginning of the second week of class so that you and your partners may choose the reading and the date you wish to present on.

Submission of Assignments:

Assignments should be submitted in hardcopy, in person, in class, the day they are due. If this is not possible, you may deliver your assignment to the English Department Office in Social Sciences 1152 and put it in the drop box, where your work will be date-stamped and placed in my mailbox. Assignments may not be delivered by email except with prior permission requested at least 3 days before the assignment is due.

Late Assignments:

Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized (e.g. with the loss of a third of a grade (an A- to B+) for each day [not class] that the assignment is overdue OR "each business day"). Class presentations and surprise writing assignments may not be completed late.

Plagiarism:

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Please refer to the following information and make sure you are familiar with the statement below on plagiarism.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

Scribe and Muse Club for English Students:

The Scribe and Muse Reading and Writing Club (SMRWC) fosters and champions reading and writing through community service, leadership, and engagement. We strive to enhance the academic and social experience of undergraduate students by promoting academic excellence and interaction between students, faculty, and the community, through social, cultural, and academic events. <http://english.ucalgary.ca/content/scribe-and-muse-reading-and-writing-club>
Our email address is smrwc@ucalgary.ca.

English Department Website:

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English, please go to our website at <http://english.ucalgary.ca>.

Writing support:

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Follow the Department of English on Facebook & Twitter:**Academic regulations and schedules:**

Consult the *Calendar* for course information, university and faculty regulations, dates, deadlines and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the University Calendar is

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/index.htm>

Guidelines on e-mail Etiquette:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/it/help/articles/email/etiquette>

Grade appeals:

Consult the following University *Calendar* link and request advice from the English Department office, SS 1152. Please note that “mere dissatisfaction with a decision is not sufficient grounds for the appeal of a grade or other academic decision.”

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

Deferral of term work and final examinations:

Should you require an extension for completion of term papers or assignments beyond the deadline of five days after the end of lectures, an Application of Deferment of Term Work form must be completed. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final examinations. See *Calendar*:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>.

Academic accommodation:

It is a student’s responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation and if you have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Your academic accommodation letters should be provided to your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the commencement of this course. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/>

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>;

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/>

“Safewalk” Program:

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night: call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk/>

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at

<http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Contact for Students Ombudsman’s Office: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Please read the following information carefully. The penalty routinely recommended by the English Department for documented plagiarism is failure of the course in which the offence occurred; academic probation is also routinely applied at the Faculty level. Suspension or expulsion can result from severe or repeated plagiarism.

The University *Calendar* states:

1. **Plagiarism** - Essentially plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:

- (a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
- (b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
- (c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,
- (d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism occurs when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, or when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. Citing your sources in a bibliography is not enough, because a bibliography does not establish which parts of a student's work are taken from other sources. MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose. Advice on adequate documentation can be found at the following web sites:

<http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/>

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

According to the University *Calendar*, (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j.html>)

“The University of Calgary community has undertaken to be guided by the following statements of purpose and values: to promote free inquiry and debate, to act as a community of scholars, . . . , to respect, appreciate, and encourage diversity, [and] to display care and concern for community”. The Department of English, like the university as a whole, is committed to a “positive and productive learning and working environment.” This environment is characterized by appreciation and encouragement of diversity and respect for the dignity of all persons: students, support staff, and faculty. The department will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour, such as threatening gestures, threatening or abusive verbal or written communication (including e-mails), or any conduct that “seriously disrupts the lawful education and related activities of students and/or university staff”. Any cases of such misconduct should be reported immediately to the department Head, who, depending on the nature and severity of the incident, may then take further appropriate action.