



**FACULTY OF ARTS  
Department of English**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**ENGL 253.02 POETRY  
WINTER 2023  
LECTURE 1 (MW, 9.30-10.45, ST 127)**

<b>Instructor</b>	Benjamin Blyth
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<b>Web Page:</b>	D2L
<b>Office Hours:</b>	M 11-1 (SS1032 or Zoom)

**Course description:**

This course introduces students to a wide-variety of poetry in English. Course texts are drawn from across historical periods and geographical locations, and will provide students with firm foundations in a range of poetic forms. The course will help develop close reading skills, and provide students with the critical and analytical tools required to interpret poetic texts at university-level. Students will also improve their library and research skills through this course, and will learn how to produce a strong, well-supported, and clearly-written academic essay. The course culminates with a registrar-scheduled exam.

**Course learning outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate intermediate-level knowledge of a range of literary writings in poetry;
2. Understand and interpret poetic texts in relation to their historical and cultural contexts;
3. Pay close attention to the language of poetic texts;
4. Write a convincing academic paper using the conventions of English as an academic discipline;
5. Engage in meaningful conversations about poetry with peers;
6. Improve their library, research, and critical writing skills.

**Texts and readings:**

All course readings will be available digitally on D2L. ***There is no requirement to purchase text books for this course.***

Students will encounter work from a range of poets in this course, including (but not limited to):

*The Gawain Poet*  
*William Shakespeare*  
*Christina Rossetti*  
*Sylvia Plath*  
*Jordan Abel*  
*Billy-Ray Belcourt*  
*Kate Tempest*

### **Resources:**

All primary course texts are available online via the Poetry Foundation and UCalgary Library websites. Paired critical reading will be assigned throughout the semester.

Johnston, Jim. *The Next Wave: An Anthology of 21st Century Canadian Poetry*, Palimpsest Press, 2018. <https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/lib/ucalgary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=6663951>

Wolosky, Shira. *The Art of Poetry: How to Read a Poem*, Oxford University Press, 2001. <https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/lib/ucalgary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=431387>.

Poetry Foundation: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org>

### **Learning technology requirements:**

Students will need to have access to a laptop computer or smartphone in class time. There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see [d2l.ucalgary.ca](http://d2l.ucalgary.ca)). Classes are held in-person and on-campus. Classes may occasionally be conducted via Zoom, depending on external factors such as weather and illness. Please ensure you have access to Zoom on your laptop or smartphone.

### **Assessments and Evaluation:**

**Library Skills Worksheet** (5%): Students will complete a worksheet assignment following the library skills session. The worksheet will examine the student's skills in sourcing and citing peer-reviewed critical articles, book chapters, and e-books gained from the in-class discussion and accompanying video resources.

**Practice Essay Plan** (10%): In this 500-word assignment students will learn how to plan and develop an academic paper. They will begin by narrowing down a topic of interest to provide a clear, specific thesis statement that directly answers a set question. They will learn how to reference their citations in MLA 8, and show how they plan to integrate primary material into their argument. They will also develop the skills to structure their argument in a thoughtful and

critical way.

**Research Paper** (30%): A 1500-word research essay that develops skills from the practice essay plan. The students will engage with one of the course's poetic texts in its critical context. In addition, students are responsible for sourcing a peer-reviewed critical article that engages with the source material, and are expected to connect this article with their argument.

**Midterm Examination** (15%): Students will complete a 60-minute midterm examination consisting of a series of multiple-choice questions and short close-reading exercises.

**Close Reading Exercises** (10%): Participation in the course will be graded on the basis of four short close-reading exercises (2.5% each), to be administered randomly during class time throughout the term.

**Registrar-Scheduled Exam** (30%): Students will answer a selection of short questions and one longer passage analysis (choose one passage from a selection of three). The exam will be Open Book, and students must be available for examinations up to the last day of the examination period. We are at the mercy of the registrar as to the time and date for the exam.

There are no extra-credit assignments available for this course. Students are required to submit their work through D2L in either .docx or .pdf formats. Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of a third of a grade (e.g., an A- to B+) for each calendar day (not class meeting) that the assignment is overdue. No assignments will be accepted one week past the assignment deadline without the prior consent of the instructor. Students will receive 40% of their final grade by APRIL 12, 2023 and do not need to complete all assignments to receive a passing grade in this course.

**Attendance and participation expectations:**

Students are expected to attend class regularly and to be fully present and engaged in class activities and discussions. The participation grade for this course determined through four close-reading exercises scheduled at random throughout the term, as outlined in the assessment components section above. A rubric with detailed information about the assessment of participation is available on the course D2L site. If students miss a class session that is included as a component of participation, and wish to receive credit for that day's work, they must contact the instructor within 24 hours to discuss options to make up this component.

**Conduct:**

Students, employees, and academic staff are also expected to demonstrate behaviour in class that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment. As members of the University community, students, employees, and academic staff are expected to demonstrate conduct that is consistent with the University of Calgary Calendar, the Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures, which can be found at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

### Policy on use of electronic devices

The use of laptop and mobile devices in class is acceptable when used in a manner appropriate to the course and classroom activities. Please refrain from accessing websites and resources that may be distracting to you or for other learners during class time. Students are responsible for being aware of the University's [Internet and email use policy](#). Electronic devices are not permitted during the Final Examination.

### Grading System:

The course will be graded in-line with the English Department's standardized conversion scale:

90 + %	A+	4.0	67 – 69 %	C+	2.3
85 – 89 %	A	4.0	64 – 66 %	C	2.0
80 – 84 %	A–	3.7	60 – 63 %	C–	1.7
77 – 79 %	B+	3.3	55 – 59 %	D+	1.3
74 – 76 %	B	3.0	50 – 54 %	D	1.0
70 – 73 %	B–	2.7	0 – 49 %	F	0

- A+ is solely an honorific that entails no additional points in the four-point system. This mark is used to distinguish superlative work that far exceeds expectations in style, correctness, intellectual depth and breadth, sophistication, and originality.
- The interpretation of the undergraduate university grading system can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html>
- There is no D- grade.

### Academic Integrity:

This course, like all courses at the University of Calgary, holds students to high standards of honest and responsible scholarship. Please consult the [Academic Integrity website](#) for a detailed description of university policies, which will be enforced in this course. Cases of suspected academic misconduct will be referred to the Associate Dean of Arts for a ruling.

Plagiarism is a type of academic misconduct. Plagiarism occurs when a student presents the ideas, expression of ideas, or work of another person as their own. Another equally serious form of plagiarism occurs when a student submits something they have written themselves for credit in two or more courses without first securing written permission from all those course instructors. Consequences for plagiarism include failure on the assignment, failure in the course, and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense.

### 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](#) must

be completed. It is the student's responsibility to initiate this process with the instructor. The University also has regulations governing the [deferral of final examinations](#).

**Grade appeals:**

To pursue a Reassessment of Graded Term Work or a Reappraisal of an Academic Assessment, Consult the [University Calendar](#) and request advice from the English Department at [engl@ucalgary.ca](mailto:engl@ucalgary.ca). Please note that mere dissatisfaction with a grade is not sufficient grounds for an appeal.

[English Department Website:](#)

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English.

**Scribe and Muse Club for English Students:**

The [Scribe and Muse Reading and Writing Club](#) fosters and champions reading and writing through community service, leadership, and engagement. Our email address is [smecuofc@gmail.com](mailto:smecuofc@gmail.com).

**Writing support:**

[The Student Success Centre](#) offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students.

[Academic regulations and schedules](#)

**Student Academic Accommodations:**

The Student Accessibility Services website is available [here](#). University accommodation policies can be found at the following links:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6-1.html>

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6.html>

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6-2.html>

**Program Advising and Student Information Resources** is done through the Faculty of Arts Students' Centre. Office location: SS102; phone: 403-220-3580; email: [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca)  
Website: <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>

**Instructor's Intellectual Property**

Course materials created by instructors, including presentations, posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments, and exams, remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may not be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy**

Student information will be collected in accordance with usual classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty and teaching assistants. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

**Sexual violence policy:**

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf>

**Other important information:**

- [Wellness and Mental Health Resources](#)
- [Student Success](#)
- [Student Ombuds Office](#)
- [Student Union \(SU\) Information](#)
- [Graduate Students' Association \(GSA\) Information](#)
- [Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points](#)
- [Safewalk](#)

**Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI):**

Please participate in [USRI Surveys](#) toward the end of the course. The feedback they provide helps us evaluate teaching, enhance student learning, and guide students as they select courses.