Course Policies and Requirements for Modern Poetry

Professor:
Jack Peters

Course:
English 4420, Section 001
310 Lang. 10:00-11:50 a.m. M TuW Th

Texts:
The Norton Anthology of Poetry

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1-2 M Tu, by appointment,
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Course Requirements:
The requirements for this course are as follows: the completion of 5 short response papers, a mid-term exam, and a final exam. The mid-term exam and final exam will each be worth 35% of your final grade for the class. The 5 short response papers will be worth a total of 30% of your final grade.

Course Subject Matter:
This course will be on modern poetry beginning with William Wordsworth, Walt Whitman, and Emily Dickinson from the nineteenth century and going through the Modernist period. We will be discussing the literary movements relevant to the poetry, the historical and cultural contexts, and focusing heavily on the close reading of the poetry.

Course Policies:

Attendance/Promptness: You are allowed 1 unexcused absences without penalty. You can use these absences for any reason, but use them wisely. Their purpose is to allow you to miss class if something important comes up that does not constitute an excused absence. Illness, family emergency (e.g., death in the family, etc.), observance of religious holidays, and university-excused absences (i.e., participation in intercollegiate athletic events, etc.) are the only reasons for excused absences; all excused absences are subject to my judgment and require documentation on your part. You must also attend at least 75% of a class to get credit for attending that day. If you have 2 unexcused absences, I will drop your final grade for the class by 4%, and I will drop your final grade for the class by an additional 2% for every unexcused absence after that. If you miss more than 8 classes, depending upon the circumstances, I may ask you to drop the class or take an incomplete (this latter only in the case of excused absences). There will be a roll for you to sign for both the first and second hour of class. It is your responsibility to sign these rolls. If you don’t sign the roll and I don’t remember that you were in class, then I will assume you were absent on that day. Do not sign the roll for anyone but yourself. If you do, you will be counted absent as well as the person in whose name you sign the roll. Even though you have 1 unexcused absences to work with, you should try not to miss class except when necessary, because it will be to your benefit to attend class, since much of the material appearing on the exams will be covered in class. As a result, students who chronically miss class generally don’t do very well in the course. Although I have no standard tardiness policy, if you are chronically late (in my judgment), I may count a certain number of tardy days as an unexcused absence. In addition, whether you’re present or absent, you’re responsible for all material we cover in class, including any changes in due dates, policies, or reading assignments. So make sure you check the notes of other students for any classes you miss. Finally, if you miss an exam, you must have a good, documented excuse or you will probably not be allowed to make it up.
Late Papers: Since the papers are short response papers, I expect term papers to be turned in on the day they are due; if they are late, I'll deduct 6% off the grade for the paper. In addition, I'll deduct 6% for each day thereafter that your paper is not turned in. If you're out of town, and you want to turn in a late paper to avoid further penalty, you can always e-mail me the paper, and I'll consider it turned in as of the time it shows up in my e-mail box. The only exception to this late paper policy is in the case when it is impossible, because of an excused absence, to turn in the paper on the due date. In those cases, a new due date will be arranged on a case by case basis.

Accommodations: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504, Rehabilitation Act, I cooperate with the Office of Disability Accommodation to make reasonable accommodations for you if you qualify as a student with disabilities. Please register with ODA if you have not already done so, and please present your written request to me by the 2nd class day.

Texts, Essays, Exams, Grades, Etc.:
Texts and Readings: The text should be on sale at the student bookstore. You are welcome to use other editions of the book, although the page numbering will likely differ and some of the material may also be different. I have also placed a copy of the book on two-hour reserve in the library in case you don't have immediate access to the books.

Mid-Term and Final Exams: The mid-term exam will likely be made up of 10 short-answer questions that will demonstrate your understanding of the material we have covered to that point. The final exam will also likely be made up of 10 short-answer questions, and 1 essay question that you will choose from several alternatives. The essay is intended to demonstrate your ability to apply what you have learned in different contexts from those we discussed in class. You will need a blue book for the final exam. If necessary, I scale mid-term and/or final exam grades, either by lowering the standards for a single grade or multiple grades, by scaling the entire class, or by using a slightly sliding scale, depending on the type of scale required in a particular situation. I do not give early or late mid-term or final exams except in extremely unusual circumstances.

Final Grades: I use standard percentages for grades (0% - 59.4% = F; 59.5% - 69.4% = D; 69.5% - 79.4% = C; 79.5% - 89.4% = B; 89.5% - 100% = A). If necessary, I scale final grades, either by lowering the standards for a single grade or multiple grades or by scaling the entire class, depending on the type of scale required in a particular situation. There are no extra credit assignments in this course.

Plagiarism and Cheating:
Finally, if you plagiarize the term paper or cheat on an exam, you will receive the maximum penalty allowed to me, and I'll report you to university standards for disciplinary action, regardless of your past performance or class standing.
Daily Schedule (Tentative)

August 10:  Introduction to Course and William Wordsworth
September 11: Walt Whitman
September 12: Emily Dickinson
September 13: Thomas Hardy and Gerard Manley Hopkins
September 14: William Butler Yeats
September 17: William Butler Yeats and Traditional Poets
September 18: Robert Frost
September 19: Wallace Stevens
September 20: Wallace Stevens
September 24: Mid-Term Exam.
October 25: William Carlos Williams and Imagism
October 26: World War I poets
October 27: World War I poets
October 31: Ezra Pound
October 1: Ezra Pound and Marianne Moore
October 2: T. S. Eliot
October 3: T. S. Eliot
October 7: Harlem Renaissance
November 8: W. H. Auden
November 9: W. H. Auden
November 10: Theodore Roethke; Course conclusion
November 11: Final Exam