

English 1111E
Block I
Spring 2014
M/Th 6-9:45 pm
Sat., February 1, 8-11:45 am

INTRODUCTION
TO
POETRY

Professor Nancy Adams
Office: Ket. 207
Phone: 704-637-4772
Email: nadams@catawba.edu
Hours: M/Th 5:30-6:00
Or by appointment

What is the work of a poem? To touch us, to stir us, to make us glad, and possibly even to tell us something.
-Kennedy and Gioia

TEXTS: 1. *An Introduction to Poetry*, 13th edition, X. J. Kennedy and Dana Gioia; 2. and an unabridged dictionary (or access to an online dictionary) that will be needed for homework, classwork and tests

COURSE GOALS: The goals of this course are to introduce students to the elements of poetry and to help them read, understand, appreciate and write about poems.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Students who successfully complete this course will be able to

1. read and understand poetry,
2. analyze poetry,
3. communicate clearly and effectively in writing and speech about poetry,
4. demonstrate creativity through various responses to poetry,
5. identify poetic forms and literary devices and understand their relationship to meaning,
6. perceive poetry study as a pleasurable or meaningful experience,
7. appreciate various human experiences as communicated by accomplished poets,
8. and apply insights gained from poetry to contemporary ethical and social issues.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADE PERCENTAGES: (1) two major exams 50%; (2) quizzes, homework, and group work 20%; (3) attendance and participation 10% and (4) **an oral presentation 20%.

****Specific guidelines for the oral presentation will be distributed in class.**

Grading Scale:

| | | | | | |
|----|--------|----|-------|----|----------|
| A | 93-100 | B- | 80-82 | D+ | 68-69 |
| A- | 90-92 | C+ | 78-79 | D | 63-67 |
| B+ | 88-89 | C | 73-77 | D- | 60-62 |
| B | 83-87 | C- | 70-72 | F | Below 60 |

Grading: Daily assignments and group work will be graded on **clarity, and quantity as well as quality**, since all are components of good work.

Attendance Policy and Participation Guidelines:

Attendance: Class attendance is required; being absent from classes, *or parts of classes*, will reduce a student's final grade. Students will be penalized for coming in late or leaving early. Most often, students who miss class cannot make up in-class work and will receive zeros for missed work. Students who miss *three* or more classes, *regardless of reason*, will receive an "F" for the course.

Participation: Students must come to class *on time and prepared*, with all their materials and homework with them. *Students who are repeatedly late will have their final grades reduced.* Students are expected to stay focused and participate during collaborative group exercises, in-class writing assignments, individual and small group conferences, and class discussions. **Also, students should keep their cell phones put away in pocketbooks or backpacks during class. Answering calls or texting should be done during breaks and not in the classroom.**

Role of the Honor Code: Students are expected to know and abide by the Catawba College Honor Code. Academic honesty is required on every assignment.

Late Work: Assignments should be submitted on time. Late work will be accepted at the discretion of the professor, who will assign a grade penalty of *10 points per class* to the work. Homework submitted late will receive no credit because it will be discussed in class. **In order for students to make up exams, they must get permission before the exam or be involved in extraordinary circumstances that warrant exceptions. Students should then contact the professor as soon as possible.**

****Assignments:** Students will read and write both in class and out. **Note carefully which assignments must be done before class (DUE) and what will most likely be done in the classroom (DO).** The assignments stated here may be changed or augmented as the needs of the class dictate and as the course develops.

Monday, January 13

DUE: **The following work should be done before the first class for more effective learning of the information presented during that class; however, if the reading is not done before the first class, it should be done before work for the second class is attempted. Read the following pages from *An Introduction to Poetry*: Preface, pp. xxix-mid xxxi; Chapter 18, pp. 327- 30; Chapter 1, pp. 5-8 and bottom of 16-top of 18; and Chapter 8, pp. 157-58.

DO: Introduction to the course; go over syllabus; hand out guidelines for oral presentation; discuss why we study poetry; define poetry and apply definition, p. 355; go over reading and listening to poems; explain and practice paraphrasing.

(The rest of the homework syllabus will be distributed during the first class.)

