

English 2306: Introduction to Poetry

Instructor: Caitlin Maling

In this course, our purpose is to improve skills in critical thinking, literary analysis, critical writing and creative writing through reading, discussing and composing poetry.

Specifically this course will focus on familiarizing you with the formal aspects of poetry, such as rhythm and figurative language, and how the formal choices a poet makes are related to contextual factors such as individual identity and poetic aims, and the society and time in which the poem is written. Our aim, is to examine poetry from this triangulate perspective in order to develop an understanding of poetry as a global, dynamic, evolving and individual art form. To do this we will read broadly across both contemporary poetry, and its older antecedents. While a majority of the poetry studied will be British and American, we will also read from the broader canon of world poetry.

You will be expected to be active participants in classroom discussion, to read 10-20 pages of poetry weekly, to write several short close-readings of poems, and to write a long final paper. Finally, it is important that you develop an individual sense of what your poetics tastes are, as part of this you will write several of your own poems in response to poems we read in class.

Reading list includes:

The Norton Anthology of Poetry, Fifth Edition, Margaret Ferguson, Mary Jo Salter and Jon Stallworthy, eds.