

Intro to Poetry 2306—Music and Surprise, Sec. 12411  
Joshua Gottlieb-Miller  
M-W-F 9-10AM

In this course, we will hone the skills that allow us to understand, enjoy and learn poetry more deeply. First, what is poetry? How does poetry relate to and differ from other forms of making art? As we delve deeper into what poetry is, we will start to reckon with how poetry is—music, story, argument—as well as why poetry is—historical process, art-like consciousness—and, finally, we will learn how to read every kind of poem. In this course, students will be required to think harder and more slowly about how and why poetry has evolved to communicate and perform in its disparate ways. We will also look at poetry as a vessel of secret histories and an engine of surprise. Throughout the semester we will use our assigned readings to talk about issues such as class, religion, gender, race, ethics, and modern society, among others, mainly through the lens of works that have defined twentieth century poetry, but also those that have jump-started its contemporary manifestations and continued evolution into the twenty-first.

Requirements: One oral presentation, one critical paper, and brief writing exercises.

Required texts: *The Norton Introduction to Poetry*, Ninth Edition (ed. J. Paul Hunter, Alison Booth, Kelly J. Mays) and supplemental readings.

*The Vintage Book of Contemporary World Poetry* (ed. J.D. McClatchy)

*The McSweeney's Book of Poets Picking Poets* (ed. Dominic Luxford)