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It seems to me it's pretty simple what English majors try to do, though so many people seem to wonder just what it is we do. We read things and try to figure out what they mean and why and how and who might care. Sounds simple enough, right? Call this class an exercise in exploring why this straightforward task of meaning-making requires the work it does and in what ways this work can be done. We'll spend the first half of the semester or so learning what we can about three of the strongest poets America has produced—Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, and Robert Frost. My aim in this is to introduce you to several different modes of literary study, to give you a chance to develop and in depth sense of several writers, and to help you to see the ways there are meanings we can make.

Course policies are as follows;

1. This is a discussion and attendance based class, and I expect and reward regular participation. Missing more than a couple of classes will hurt you. Not getting involved in class discussion will hurt you more. If you want an A, act like an A student.
2. I'll ask you to do various kinds of writing from impromptu in class things to more developed projects, including a library based research project.
3. Final grades will be based on your overall performance.