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ENG 2011G-003: Literature, the Self, and the World: Poetry

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English 2011G – 003: Literature, the Self and the World (Poetry)

TR 3:30 – 4:45 pm; CH 3150

Fall 2007

Richard Sylvia

Office: Coleman 3775

Office Hours: TR 9:30 – 10:30 am; 2:00 – 3:00 pm; and by appt.

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Course Description, Design, and Goals:

That mirror
Which makes of men a transparency,
Who holds that mirror
And bids us such a breast-bare spectacle see
Of you and me?

Poetry is such a mirror, and in this course we will find out what several contemporary American poets want us to see about the self and the world.

Since English 2009G is a writing intensive course, we will write daily in response to the poems assigned, as well as discuss them in class. Both practices should help us improve our analytical skills – another important goal of this course.

Texts: Ramazani, *The Norton Anthology of Modern and Contemporary Poetry*

Requirements and Grading:

- 1 completion of two essays (minimum 750 words each) – 30%
- 2) daily in-class written responses to assigned readings – 30%
- 3) mid-term and final exam – 30%
- 4) participation in class discussions of the assigned readings – 10%

(You must complete successfully **all** the work listed above to pass the course.)

Course Policies: I do not accept late papers without a valid excuse. If you have a problem completing an assignment, speak to me before it is due. Sometimes even a brief conversation can clear up difficulties.

You cannot make up missed in-class writing assignments.

Attendance at all class meetings is expected, but not required. In-class writing assignments are not announced, and cannot be made up.

Let's agree to keep our cell phones off while we are in class together and to not use our laptops during class discussions.

This is a writing-intensive course. You may submit an essay from this class for your EWP. For more information, visit the assessment website: <http://www.eiu.edu/~assess>.

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

I enforce the English Department Statement on Plagiarism: "Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism – 'The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's own original work' (Random House Dictionary) – has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office."

Tentative Schedule

Aug. 21: introductions; "The End is Nigh: Reading Short Poems"; "First Song"

Aug. 23: Heaney, "Digging"; "Death of a Naturalist"

Aug. 28: Lorde, "Hanging Fire"; "A Question of Climate"
Levine, "Belle Isle, 1949"

Aug. 30: Thomas, "The Force That through the . . ."; "Fern Hill"

Sept. 4: Wilbur, "Boy at the Window"; "Playboy"
Dove, "Adolescence – II"

Sept. 6: Nemerov, "The Goose Fish"; "Reading Pornography in Old Age"

Sept. 11: Kinnell, "After Making Love We Hear Footsteps"

Sept. 13: Hass, "Meditation at Lagunitas"; "Privilege of Being"

Sept. 18: Piercy, "Learning Experience"; "The Cast Off"; "Moonbeam"

Sept. 20: Olds, "The Pope's Penis"; "The Moment the Two Worlds Meet"

Sept. 25: Rich, "Twenty-One Love Poems"

Sept. 27: "Twenty-One Love Poems"

Oct. 2: **essay #1 due**

Oct. 4: Rich, "Aunt Jennifer's Tigers"; "Diving Into the Wreck"

Oct. 9: **Mid-Term Exam**

Oct. 11: Sexton, "Her Kind"; "The Truth the Dead Know"; "All My Pretty Ones"

Oct. 16: Sexton, "The Starry Night"; "The Room of My Life"

Oct. 18: Atwood, "Miss July Grows Older"; "Manet's Olympia"; "Morning in the Burned House"

Oct. 23: Ai, "Twenty Year Marriage"; "Killing Floor"; "Sleeping Beauty"

Oct. 25: Plath, "Daddy"; "Lady Lazarus"

Oct. 30: Clifton, "[still]"; "cutting greens"; "[i am accused of tending to the past]"; "at the cemetery"; "poem to my uterus"

Nov. 1: Wright, "Saint Judas"; "Autumn Begins . . ."; "Lying in a Hammock . . ."; "A Blessing"

Nov. 6: Wright, "The Minneapolis Poem"; "In Response to a Rumor . . ."; "A Centenary Ode"

Nov. 8: Levine, "They Feed They Lion"; "You Can Have It"; "Drum"

Nov. 13: Oliver, "The Black Snake"; "August"; "Hawk"

Nov. 15: Merwin, "For the Anniversary of My Death"; "The Asians Dying"; "For a Coming Extinction"; "A Given Day"

Nov. 20, 22: Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 27: Brooks, "A Song in the Front Yard"; "Sadie and Maud"; "Of De Witt Williams"; "The Vacant Lot"

Nov. 29: Brooks, "The Rites for Cousin Vit"; "The Bean Eaters"; "We Real Cool"; "The Last Quatrain . . ."

Dec. 4: Brooks, "Boy Breaking Glass"; "The Blackstone Rangers"; "The Boy Died in My Alley"

Dec. 6: Jarrell, "Thinking of the Lost World"

Final Exam: Thurs., Dec. 13, 12:30 – 2:30 pm