ENG 2011G-004: Literature, the Self, and the World: Poetry

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Literature, the Self, and the World: Poetry
MWF 2 - 2:50 in Coleman Hall 3609

Books
Love that Dog, Creech (novel)
An Introduction to Poetry, ed. Kennedy & Gioia (textbook & anthology)
Illinois Voices, eds. Stein & Murray (anthology)
Dictionary

Objectives
• To become better acquainted with poetry and poets
• To better appreciate poetry for what it is
• To better understand what poetry is
• To develop a variety of approaches to reading poetry
• To explore connections between poetry, your self, and the world
• To develop a relationship with poetry based on mutual respect

Assignments
The reading assignments will not cover many pages (most poems are pretty short, after all), but expect to spend some time studying the assigned poems—and writing out your responses to them—to prepare for class discussions. Much of the writing that you’ll do over the semester will be informal “responses” to the readings. These responses will be re-collected—and then graded—several times during the semester. You will also write two essays (the final will be an in-class essay exam), and one formal explication of a poem, along with a less formal letter about the same poem. There will be some informal group presentations, and you will personally introduce at least one poem to the class.

Grades*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points (50 + 100 + 100)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Responses/Log</td>
<td>250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-term Essay</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poem Introduction</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Explication + Letter</td>
<td>250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final (in-class essay)</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1000</td>
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*Point values may be adjusted if we revise, add, or cancel any assignments
Other Things You Need to Know

- This is a “writing intensive” course. You will write—and have an opportunity to revise—at least one essay that you could put in your Electronic Writing Portfolio.
- Attendance counts. If you have more than three (3) un-excused absences, you will not receive any points for “participation.”
- To pass this course, you must complete all major assignments.
- Late work will be penalized unless we come to an agreement before the due date.
- Out-of-class writing assignments should be typed, double-spaced, and proofread.
- Plagiarism—taking someone else’s words or ideas and using them in your own writing without giving appropriate credit to the author—is a serious academic offense and may result in a failing grade for this course in addition to other university penalties. Questions? Ask me or visit the Writing Center (581-5929).
- If you have a documented disability, you should contact the Office of Disability Services (6583) so we can work out appropriate academic accommodations.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments (1st installment)

8/26 Introductions


8/30 Read Love that Dog 12-24 + poems: “dog” and “The Pasture”; Response due

9/2 Labor Day: No Class Meeting

9/4 Love that Dog 25-52 + poems: “Street Music” and “The Apple”; Response due (For more “concrete poems,” see McGraw Hill Book of Poetry 64-72)

9/6 Love that Dog 53-86 (end); Response due Log DUE

9/9 Read “The Pleasures of Poetry” (MH 3-13); Type out and annotate a copy of “Fire and Ice” by Robert Frost (MH 543)

9/11 September 11 Poems (handout); Response DUE ~ Feel free to bring poems

9/13 Read chapter 9, “Rhythm” (IP 181-203) and then try to scan “Fire and Ice,” marking stresses—strong and weak—plus any pauses. Consider how we can we use this information to better understand or appreciate the poem.

*Starting this week, you should turn in two (2) responses each week

9/16 Read sonnets: “Love is not All” (MH 58) + “Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer’s Day?” Shakespeare (MH 165)

9/18 Read “My People” + “I, too, sing America, Hughes” (MH 56-57)

9/20 Switch books but continue reading poems by Langston Hughes (IP 369-371)

9/23 Continue reading poems by Langston Hughes (IP 372)

9/25 Continue reading poems by Langston Hughes (IP 373)

9/27 Finish poems by Langston Hughes (IP 373)