Spring 1-15-2003

ENG 5010-001

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Required Books


Course Purpose: The purpose of the course is to impart understanding of the poetry of six twentieth-century American poets, and to deepen awareness of the poetic movements or schools which they help to define.

Jan. 15 Course Description and Introduction.
Feb. 5 The Poetry of T. S. Eliot. CP: Ash Wednesday; and from Ariel Poems, "Journey of the Magi" and "Marina." Also, CP: from Four Quartets, "East Coker."
Feb. 12 The Poetry of William Carlos Williams. CP: Al Que Quiere through "Pastoral" (p. 97); and Sour Grapes from "Complaint" (p. 153) through "Great Figure" (p. 174). Prospectus for a Paper due.
Feb. 19 The Poetry of William Carlos Williams. CP: Spring and All, the prologue, (pp. 177-78), and the poems denoted by the following roman numerals—I, III, V-VI, VIII-IX, X-XI, XIV-XXII, XXIV-XXVII. Also, CP: An Early Martyr.

March 5  Midterm Examination.


April 9  The Poetry of W. S. Merwin. SFBP: The Lice.

April 16  The Poetry of W. S. Merwin. SFBP: The Lice. Also, from Moving Target, "Lemuel's Blessing" and "Air"; from Carriers, "Lackawana," and "Fourth Psalm": from Writings, "Gift."


April 30  The Poetry of Anne Sexton. CP: from Live or Die, " Consorting with Angels" (p. 111) through "Two Sons" (p. 122) and "Pain For Daughter" (pp. 163-64). From Love Poems, "The Touch" through "My Uterus" (p. 181) and "For My Lover," (p. 188). From Awful Rowing, "Rowing" through "Sickness" (pp. 417-42); and "Welcome Morning" through "Rowing Endeth" (pp. 455-74).

May 7  Final Exam.
Course Requirements: The final grade will be determined on the basis of three written requirements which will have equal weight: a midterm exam, a final exam, and a research paper. The exams will be essay-type, and will be given in class. They will concern themes and topics in a poet's work. Absence from an exam will result in a penalty unless the student has a valid excuse from a physician. The penalty will be reduction of the grade for make-up work by two letter grades. The research paper will explain a theme or concern in the work of one of the poets we read. The paper should be twenty pages in length, typed double-space, according to the format outlined in the MLA Handbook (which is available at the Booth Library Reference Room desk). The research component of the paper should include three or four books, including at least one critical biography, and five or six articles from standard literary journals. A prospectus for the paper, including preliminary sources, will be due during the semester, as will a thesis proposal accompanied by a few additional sources. Papers should be submitted when due. Lateness would result in a penalty unless the student is excused (as above); the penalty would be reduction of the grade by two-thirds of a letter for each class day that passes before the paper is submitted. Students are expected to attend all classes and to come prepared to participate. Taking notes and keeping a notebook-journal on the readings is encouraged in order to prepare for class, for exams, and for the research paper. If a student has a documented disability and wishes academic accommodations, he or she should contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services.

Statement concerning 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 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.