Fall 8-15-1997

ENG 5009-001

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Syllabus

English 5009  
Fall 1997

Required Books with abbreviations:


Course Purpose: The purpose of the course is to impart understanding of the poetry of Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson, and to deepen awareness of why these two poets became representative of nineteenth-century American literature.

Aug. 27 Course Introduction and Description.
Sept. 3 The Life and Times of Walt Whitman. *SD,* pp. 7-36; and 80-95. *SD,* "Democratic Vistas," 203-213; 225-234; 239-258.
Oct. 1 Whitman and the Civil War. *SD,* pp. 36-64. *LG,* "Drum-Taps" and "Memories of President Lincoln."
English 5009 Syllabus
(continued)

Oct. 22 Midterm Exam.

Oct. 29 The Life and Poetic Vocation of Emily Dickinson.
SL, Nos. 1, 16, 22, 72, 73, 85, 125, 153, 173, 260, 261, 265, 268, 271, and 418.
CP, Nos. 271, 288, 290, 324, 326, 401, 413, 569, 613, 657, 696, 709, 932, 1052, 1510, 1545.

Nov. 5 The Poetics of Emily Dickinson. CP, Nos. 243, 746, 754, 1263.
CP, Nos. 214, 258, 304, 420, 441, 448-449, 529, 575, 593, 595, 885, 888, and 1079.

Nov. 12 Friendship with Nature in Dickinson.
CP, Nos. 328, 333, 342, 420, 429, 525, 716, 783, 790, 909, 917, 924, 945, and 1009.
CP, Nos. 321, 436, 773, 824, 885, 986, 1035, 1068, 1075, 1077, 1483.

Nov. 19 The Question of Love in Dickinson's Poetry.

Dec. 3 Dickinson and the Meaning of Suffering.
CP, Nos. 404, 419, 426, 478, 534, 544, 561, 563, 577, 584, 611, 616, 762, 786, 853, 887, 908, 961, 1013, 1021.

Dec. 10 Death and Afterlife in Dickinson's Poetry.

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 (for which a prospectus is required) will explain a theme or concern in the work 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 (available at the Booth Library Reference Room desk). Papers should be submitted when due. Lateness would result in a penalty unless the student has an excuse from a physician. 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.