

ENGL 422: Modern Poetry

Trimester 1 2014

3 March to 2 July 2014

30 Points



Teaching dates: 3 March to 6 June 2014

Easter/Mid-Trimester break: 18 April to 4 May 2014

Last assessment item due: 6 June 2014

Withdrawal Dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

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CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Classes are held in VZ808, Tuesdays from 9 – 12

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Announcements will be made in class and also through email.

PRESCRIPTION

A study of the relation between a poet's stated intentions and the work they write, between a reader's poetics and their evaluation of a work, and between poetry and its cultural context. Students will read Ezra Pound, William Carlos Williams, Elizabeth Bishop, Tom Paulin and Anne Carson.

COURSE CONTENT

Class discussions will focus on the poetry of five major Twentieth-century poets: Ezra Pound, William Carlos Williams, Elizabeth Bishop, Tom Paulin, and Anne Carson. The sonnet, the ballad and the lyric will be studied, and the issue of the use of conventional form will be discussed in general, along with other issues of poetic theory such as the importance of "voice" or individual style, the role of audience, poetic "progress" and the significance of tradition, the theory and practice of evaluation.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

Students who pass this course will be able to:

- 1 analyse and communicate a range of issues pertaining to the relation between poetry and poetics
- 2 write in depth and detail on the work of a number of poets, showing a familiarity with, and understanding of, an extensive range of poems
- 3 work with primary sources to inform your reading of literary works
- 4 construct an argument and take an informed position in relation to one or more theoretical issues in contemporary poetics
- 5 analyse and appreciate the potential of one or more poetic forms

More generally, students will develop their ability to evaluate poetry and to reflect on the basis for their evaluation.

You should expect to spend, on **average**, about 15 hours per week on work for this course (**apart** from time in class). **Please note that this is a guideline only.** The time commitment will be greatest in the weeks immediately prior to essay submission dates, but you should be putting in a sustained commitment to reading, note-taking and critical thinking throughout the course.

TEACHING FORMAT

Seminars.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

- Complete 3 essays

- As in all English Programme courses, 70% attendance is required.

WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 30 point course is 300 hours over the trimester or 20 hours per teaching week.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	3000 word research essay	33.3	1,2,3	Friday 28 March
2	3000 word essay	33.3	1,2,4	Friday 16 May
3	Either a 3000 word essay on poetic form, or a poetry portfolio with 1000 word statement of poetics	33.3	1, 5	Friday 6 June

1. A research essay focused on the work of one poet or group of poets, reading their work in relation to primary sources outlining their poetics and analysing the relation between their poetry and poetics. This essay requires you to ground your research in the study of primary texts, looking at a range of documents, which will inform your interpretation of the poetry. **Due Friday 28 March**
2. An essay exploring an issue in poetics (such as the use of form, the concept of "voice," the relative importance of tradition and experimentation) with reference to the poetry and poetics of more than one poet. This assignment requires you to engage with contemporary theory and critical writing and to develop your own position in response, drawing on your own interpretations of a selection of literary works you will make yourself. **Due Friday 16 May**
3. A study of poetic form. For this assignment, you can either write a 3000 word essay offering a close study of a selected literary form (for instance the sonnet, the villanelle, the ballad), or you can submit a portfolio of eight to twelve original works of poetry, with a short essay of between 1,000 to 1,500 words introducing the poetry in terms of your own poetics. **Due Friday 6 June**

Please note: Marks for Honours level assignments and final course grades are not finalised until feedback from the external examiner has been considered. Honours grades gained in individual courses remain provisional until the overall final classification made by the Honours programme examination committee.

SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF WORK

Hardcopy assignments are submitted in the drop slot outside the administration office: [von Zedlitz level 8](#). Attach an assignment cover sheet or extension form, found on Blackboard or outside the administration office.

Your marked assignment will be handed back in class. Any uncollected assignments can be picked up from the Programme Administrator after the last day of teaching. Assignments will be held in the Administration office until the end of the following trimester. You need to show your student identification to collect marked assignment from the Administration office.

EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

Extensions

In exceptional and unforeseen circumstances an extension may be granted. Issues of workload do not constitute exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. If you require an extension, you must complete an extension request form (available on your course Blackboard site) prior to the assignment due date. This must be accompanied by relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor's certificate) where appropriate. Tutors cannot grant extensions. **No assignment without an extension will be accepted after Wednesday 25 June 2014. The Course Coordinator will not give an extension beyond Wednesday 2 July 2014.**

Penalties

Work submitted after the deadline will be penalised by a 2.5 percent deduction from your total mark per work day. Late work also receives only minimal comments from your marker.

SET TEXTS

Essential texts:

Ezra Pound, *Selected Poems; The ABC of Reading*

William Carlos Williams, *Collected Poems Volume 1*.

Elizabeth Bishop, *Poems, Prose and Letters*

Tom Paulin, *Selected Poems*

Anne Carson, *Glass and God*

Also recommended:

William Carlos Williams, *I Wanted to Write a Poem: The Autobiography of the Works of a Poet* (1958)

Pound/Williams: Selected Letters of Ezra Pound and William Carlos Williams (1996)

Tom Paulin, *Writing to the Moment: Selected Critical Essays 1980-1996*

Anne Carson, *Decreation: Poetry, Essays, Opera; If Not, Winter: Fragments of Sappho*

James Fenton, "A Lesson from Michelangelo" and "The Many Arts of Elizabeth Bishop" in *The Strength of Poetry*

The Page: website that collects articles on poetry, and poems, daily

T S Eliot, "Tradition and the individual talent"

Other editions or volumes of works by these poets can be substituted for any of the texts. Essential readings will be provided electronically or by other means where necessary. Students are also responsible for providing access to materials they want to discuss in the student-led discussions.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

STUDENT FEEDBACK

Student feedback on University courses may be found at

www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

In week six or seven of the trimester your class representative will be invited to a meeting with the Programme staff. In week five your class representative will ask the class for any feedback on this course to discuss at this meeting.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades

- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute:
www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library/resources/subjectcontacts.html>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

School website: www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms

COURSE PROGRAMME

This is a provisional programme only as students are invited to be involved in planning the classes.

Week 1	Tues 4 March	Poetry and its evaluation
Week 2	Tues 11 March	William Carlos Williams and Ezra Pound Readings: Ezra Pound, <i>Selected Poems</i> ; <i>The ABC of Reading</i> William Carlos Williams, <i>I Wanted to Write a Poem: The Autobiography of the Works of a Poet</i> (1958); <i>Collected Poems Volume 1</i> , and essays and letters handed out in class the week before
Week 3	Tues 18 March	Elizabeth Bishop and Tom Paulin Readings: Elizabeth Bishop, <i>Poems, Prose and Letters</i> Tom Paulin, "Writing to the moment," in <i>Writing to the Moment: Selected Critical Essays 1980-1996</i> ; <i>Selected Poems</i>
Week 4	Tues 25 March	Anne Carson / poetry workshop Readings: Anne Carson, "The Glass Essay" Assignment one: due date Friday 28 March

Week 5 Tues 1 Student-led discussion / Poetry workshop
 April

Week 6 Tues 8 Student-led discussion / Poetry workshop
 April

Week 7 Tues 15 T.B.A.
 April

Mid Trimester Break: Friday 18 April to Sunday 4 May 2014

Week 8 Tues 6 Student-led discussion / poetry workshop
 May **Assignment two: due date Friday 16 May**

Week 9 Tues 13 Form: the sonnet / poetry workshop
May

Week 10 Tues 20 Form: the ballad / poetry workshop
May

Week 11 Tues 27 Form: the ballad / poetry workshop
May

Week 12 Tues 3 Concluding discussion
June

Assignment three: due date Friday 6 June