

# ENGL 102: Introduction to Poetry

Winter 2007

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## Course Description:

In this course we will be studying poetry in all its range and versatility. The craft of poetry has a long history and the devices used by poets are diverse. We will try to cover as much poetic ground as we can: from Shakespeare to Atwood, from sonnet to experimental sound poetry, from Canada and abroad. I will ask students to become fluent in discussing and interpreting poems, adept in writing critical papers on a poem or set of poems, and skilled in researching those papers. I will provide a specialized language to describe and analyze poetry and will expect students to use that language. The intense nature of our engagement of poetry will not detract from the enjoyment a poem can bring; on the contrary, such interaction enhances what a poem can mean to us.

The class will be part lecture, part group work, part discussion and will be flexible depending to a large extent on the composition, needs, and inclination of the group. My teaching style is one that first recognizes and respects the student as a scholar. You will be entering the course with a wealth of knowledge and I will not let that knowledge rest. Accordingly, I do not tend to lecture much. My job is to provide you with tools and a language which allows you to enter texts with more confidence and agility. Because of the nature of my classes attendance is crucial--there is no "textbook" to catch up in. I expect students to come to class having read the scheduled material ahead of time and also having formulated some issues and critical responses for discussion. I enter each class with enthusiasm and creativity and, so, expect the same from students.

## Text:

R.S. Gwynn, Ed. *Poetry: A Pocket Anthology*. Toronto: Longman, 2002

## Evaluation/Grade Distribution:

Reading Response (3 pages):	10%
Critical Reading Response (4 pages):	20%
Research Paper (10 pages):	40%
Participation:	10%
FINAL EXAM:	20%

Late papers will be subject to a grade penalty of 5% per calendar day. Except for cases of verified medical problems, extensions of paper deadlines will be permitted only if they are arranged with the instructor before the original due date. Papers should be double-spaced and typed on one side of the page only.

The reading response will be an analysis/explication of a poem from the anthology. The critical reading response will be the student's response to one poem and one published analytical piece ( essay/chapter/excerpt) on that poem.

Research papers should pertain to a text or author--or combination of texts or authors--being studied in class, and should make use of a minimum of 4 secondary sources. The current MLA style of documentation (in-text citations plus a works cited list) must be used.

If there are students in this course who, because of a disability, may have a need for special academic accommodations, please come and discuss this with me, or contact Disability Services located in room 7-103.

Strict enforcement of plagiarism policies applies to this course. See the UNBC calendar or speak to me if you are unsure as to what plagiarism entails.