

READINGS IN POETRY

LITERATURE 220W

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Office Hours: By appointment almost any day of the week – please email to schedule.

Course Description:

This class is meant to be an introduction to the joy of poetry reading. As such, it is a course that aspires to help you gain an appreciation for poetry. Some of you already have an enormous appreciation for poetry while others of you are only slightly interested in poetry and still others of you have always been mystified by why anyone would have an interest in poetry. Wherever you are on your journey to appreciating poetry, this class is meant to push you a little further along the path.

This is not a history of poetry class nor is it a poetry criticism and theory class though we will occasionally delve into both of these disciplines in order to appreciate poetry further.

At its core, this class is interested in giving you some time and space to consider what your poetic aesthetic might be. Believe it or not, you already have an aesthetic for many different “art” forms like film, music, TV and perhaps, to some degree, even dance, painting, and sculpture. By increasing your knowledge of and exposure to poetry, you will eventually begin to develop an aesthetic for poetry as well.

Your final project for this class will be an anthology (or a collection of previously published poetry – not your own) in blog form which you have collected and edited yourself. This project is a cumulative effort that will demonstrate the poetic aesthetic you have developed throughout this course.

Course Outcomes & Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

Outcome 1: Identify the elements of poetry.

Objectives

- A. Identify imagery, metaphor, rhyme and rhythm, etc. in particular poems.
- B. Compose papers that illustrate the elements of poetry.

Outcome 2: Analyze poems through recognition of their purposes, effects, and literary techniques.

Objectives

- A. Discuss meaningfully the use of literary devices in poetry.
- B. Compose papers that analyze literary technique, purpose, and effect.

Outcome 3: Interpret the meanings of poems.

Objectives

- A. Assemble and synthesize the elements of particular poems to support an interpretation.
- B. Compose papers that reveal an understanding of poetry interpretation.

Outcome 4: Read poetry for understanding and enjoyment.

Objectives

- A. Compose self-assessments regarding attitudes toward reading poetry.
- B. Add meaningfully to class discussion.

Outcome 5: Participate in "writing to learn" activities.

Objectives

- A. Perform writing tasks to promote learning.
- B. Write effectively for a specific audience and purpose.
- C. Demonstrate the learning of concepts through writing.

Course Materials:

You will need the following book which is available at the Delta bookstore:

- *An Introduction to Poetry*, Thirteenth Edition by X.J. Kennedy & Dana Gioia

You **MUST** use your Delta Email to contact me this semester which you will likely have to do frequently. Other email addresses will be blocked from my account.

You **MUST** have access to at least two reliable computers with reliable internet access. The first should be **VERY** easy to get to -- hopefully, it is located in your home. The second is your "back-up" computer. It should be somewhat easy to get to as well. The computers at Delta, located in the LLIC, are a great back-up but remember they are only available to you while the LLIC is open. Please check their hours for the semester early on and keep them in mind when completing your work.

Course Requirements:

- **Opening to Poetry Project:** In the first week of class, you will complete a project that is designed to get you started on the path to exploring poetry this semester. Details for this assignment will be given in your Week One packet. This assignment will be worth 25 points.

- **Discussion Boards (DB):** You will engage in 5 discussion boards this semester on Educator with your fellow classmates. Each Discussion Board consists of 3 elements: One original post and at least 2 responses to classmates. Details about how to complete these Discussion Boards will be posted in United One Packet. Each Discussion Board (all 3 elements) is worth 15 points each.
- **Reading Logs (RL):** Each week you will be assigned a new group of 10 poems to read. For each poem that you read you will write a response. Each Reading Log (a whole group of 10) is worth 30 points (3 points per poem). Don't be tempted to skip poems just because 3 points seems like so little – they will add up quickly and not reading individual poems will adversely affect your ability to complete the rest of your assignments.
- **Quizzes:** You will take 5 quizzes this semester which will cover the textbook chapters you'll be reading each week. Each Quiz is worth 30 points.
- **Anthology:** As mentioned above in the Course Description, you will create your own 20 piece anthology in a Blog as a final project for the end of the semester. You will have due dates for the first 5 and 10 pieces of your anthology fairly early on the semester – this is so that I can see you understand the project and you are making progress toward completing it throughout the course and not just saving all of it until the end. You will lose 5 points off your total score for each individual piece or response that is missing by these deadlines. You will also receive a detailed assignment sheet for this assignment in your Unit One Packet. Your anthology will be worth 150 points.

Grade Distribution:

Opening to Poetry Project	25 points
Discussion Boards (5 x 15 points each)	75 points
Reading Logs (5 x 30 points each)	150 points
Quizzes (5 x 30 points each)	150 points
Anthology	150 points
Total Points Possible	550 points

Grading Scale:

A = 93-100%
A- = 90-92.4%
B+ = 88-89.4%
B = 82-87.4%
B- = 80-81.4%
C+ = 78-79.4%
C = 72-77.4%

C- = 70-71.4%
D+ = 68-69.4%
D = 62-67.4%
D- = 60-61.4%
Below 60% is Failing = E

Gradebuilder:

You may view your current grade online, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on Educator. Just go to "Assessments" then click on "Grades". Throughout the semester, I will remind you to check your current grade. However, I will not necessarily send you a "grade report". Keeping track of how you're doing in class is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY – and is incredibly easy with Educator.

Following an assignment due date, your grades will be posted online in the gradebook. All of your grades will automatically appear as zeros – this is a glitch in the Educator system. I have to grade and then manually enter your true grades so don't expect them right away. I will do my best to get grades recorded within one week of the due date but from time to time, it might take a bit longer. If you hand work in early, which you are encouraged to do, understand that I will not even look at that work until the due date so, the earlier you hand in your work, the longer you'll be waiting for your grade. (It still works out better for you to hand your work in early because it'll be done.)

As I mentioned above, by clicking on the "Assessments" button, and then by choosing the "Grades" link, you will be able to see your scores and current grade in the class. Towards the bottom of the gradebook you will see these percentages:

Total Percentage: 46.03%
Current Percentage: 95.31%

The "Total Percentage" includes ALL quizzes, exams, assignments, and is NOT your current grade in the class. The "Current Percentage" is the number that indicates how you are performing right now in the course so it is this one that you want to pay attention to.

Strategies for Success:

1. It takes time, discipline, motivation, commitment, organization (and probably a few other characteristics that I can't currently think of) to be successful in an online (especially a seven week) course.

2. You will be very dependent on technology in this class. Therefore, it is wise to prepare for disaster. If you are prepared when a disaster strikes, the inconvenience will be minimal.

3. BACK-UP, BACK-UP, BACK-UP -- Anyone who has spent time working on computers knows that they crash. So, back-up your material frequently by saving. I highly recommend saving Discussion Board postings and responses in Word and then copying and pasting them into the Discussion Board when you're done. I've lost more than a handful by just clicking the wrong button or my computer freezing mid-paragraph.

4. Have a crash plan -- know where there is another computer with a reliable internet connection available (as suggested in the course materials) in case yours dies.

5. BE EARLY. BE EARLY. BE EARLY. Taking quizzes early, posting discussion boards early, and sending in assignments early means you won't have to lose points for late work. Late is late, period. Remember, every faculty member has been to college, we know the excuses!

6. In order to succeed in this class, class participation is a must. You CANNOT make up discussion question points. The due dates are known well in advance so that you can avoid any misses.

7. Be neat, be thorough, be careful with all of your work.

8. This may seem silly at first but keep your Poetry 21 disk in that huge box – or find some other place to put it where it will ALWAYS be and that you won't be able to lose. Because it is so thin and tiny, I had at least 3 students “lose” this disk the first semester I taught with it. You certainly don't want to do that since you'll need it for almost all the work you'll be doing in this class.

9. Despite what you may think, teaching someone does not ensure learning. I can't teach you what you don't want to learn. You learn. No one can learn for you. This feels particularly true in an online course. I've heard many students complain that they feel they are teaching themselves in an online course and in a way, because you don't have constant face-to-face interaction and reminders, you are. You will get out of this class what you put into it. You will learn what you are willing to learn. So, be willing to learn!

OTHER STUFF

Attendance:

If you are missing from class for 2 weeks in a row, you will be administratively dropped. "Missing" is defined by not handing in that week's work.

Late Work:

Because online classes are time-sensitive, no assignment will be accepted late.

Academic Dishonesty:

Handing someone else's work in with your name on it or Plagiarizing will cause you to fail the assignment. Repeated plagiarism (more than once) will cause you to fail the course. Plagiarism also could be grounds for expulsion from the college.

Appropriate Behavior:

Maturity and respect for others are necessary traits for your success in this class.

Disabilities:

Delta College is committed to equal opportunity in education for all students, including those with documented physical or learning disabilities. If you have a disability and will be requiring assistance, please contact me and Disability Support Services, located in the Counseling and Multicultural Office in D-102, as soon as possible to arrange for appropriate accommodations.

Course Calendar: specific due dates for the following assignments can be found in your weekly tasksheets which are always the first document in your weekly packets.

Week	Do:	Due:
Getting Started (first 2 days of class)	Read Syllabus, Get acquainted with Discussion Board and Educator site, and Textbook – Read Ch 18 in Textbook	Introductions on Discussion Board
Week One	Read Chs. 2-3 in textbook, "Essential Poems" handout & "What Is Poetry" lecture	"Opening to Poetry" Project

Week Two	Read Chs. 4-5 in Textbook	Reading Log 1, Discussion Board 1, Quiz 1
Week Three	Read Chs. 6-7 in Textbook	Reading Log 2, Discussion Board 2, Quiz 2 Blog-Anthology Check #1
Week Four	Read Chs. 8-9 in Textbook	Reading Log 3, Discussion Board 3, Quiz 3
Week Five	Read Chs. 10-11 in Textbook	Reading Log 4, Discussion Board 4, Quiz 4 Blog-Anthology Check #2
Week Six	Read Chs. 12-14 in Textbook	Reading Log 5, Discussion Board 5, Quiz 5
Week Seven		Final Blog-Anthology Due Course Evaluations