

Preliminary Web Course Description

*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: ENGL 2380	Course Title: Reading Poetry	Date of Offering: Fall 2024
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Course Instructor: Prof. D. O'Quinn	Course Format: Lecture/Seminar
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Brief Course Synopsis:

This course offers an introduction into the multifarious challenges posed by poetic discourse. It provides practical tools for analyzing and appreciating verse, but its ultimate objective is to heighten students' awareness of the signifying potential of language. In addition, the course offers a broad range of verse practice in English in order to provide a base repertoire through which students can approach future encounters with poetry in other classes. While much of the course will be addressing matters of form, it is not strictly speaking a formalist course. Significant portions of the course will be devoted to thinking about poetry in historical terms. We will be thinking not only about how to effectively contextualize poetic utterances, but also how a consideration of the material production and circulation of verse forms impinges on their reception. As we track the shift from "Poetry" to "Literature" to "Culture" as the organizing principles for the field of cultural production, students will begin to gain some sense of the changing relation of this specific discursive practice to other forms and genres.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Terms quizzes	10%	
Close reading exercises	3 x 15%	3 x 500 words
Reading Log	25%	approx. 1000 words
Final Essay	20%	2000 words

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)

Filreis and Stafford, *The Difference is Spreading*

John Marsh, *The Puzzle of Poetry*

Alice Oswald, *Memorial*

Dionne Brand, *Ossuaries*

This course counts towards the following distribution requirement(s) for students who registered at the University prior to the Fall of 2018:

Information about mode of delivery (synchronous/asynchronous/other details):

In person lectures.

*Students who registered at the University of Guelph after Fall 2018 must fulfill the "new" major and minor requirements. Students who registered at the University of Guelph prior to Fall 2018 must fulfill the requirements of the Calendar in effect when they first enrolled unless they have filed a Schedule of Studies Change Request to change to the 2018-2019 calendar. For more information, please consult the major and minor checklists at

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/arts/sets/undergraduate/english/current-student-information>.