

ENGL 445 Special Topic: Poetry and Poetics

Trimester 1 2011

28 February to 2 July 2011

30 Points



TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates: 28 February to 3 June 2011

Mid-trimester break: 18 April to 1 May 2011

Study week: 6 - 10 June 2011

Last piece of assessment due: 3 June 2011

WITHDRAWAL DATES

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Anna Jackson anna.jackson@vuw.ac.nz Phone 463 6840 Room VZ 819

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Classes are held in VZ 808 from 10-1 on Wednesdays.

COURSE DELIVERY

All classes are seminar classes, in which students will discuss readings assigned in advance. Students are expected to have read any assigned material and prepared their responses. In the second half of the

semester students will also take on the responsibility of assigning readings and selecting topics for discussion.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Announcements will be made in class and also through email.

COURSE CONTENT

Class discussions will focus on the poetry of six major Twentieth-century poets: Ezra Pound, William Carlos Williams, Elizabeth Bishop, Tom Paulin, Paul Muldoon 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.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students completing this course will have demonstrated an ability to analyse and communicate a range of issues pertaining to the relation between poetry and poetics. You will have written in depth and detail on the work of a number of poets, showing a familiarity with, and understanding of, an extensive range of poems. You will have developed your ability to evaluate poetry and to reflect on the basis for your evaluation.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

You should expect to spend, on **average**, about 17 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.

READINGS

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 7 February to 11 March 2011, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of vicbooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two of the trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from vicbooks on Level 3 of the Student Union Building. You can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to you or they can be picked up from the shop. You will be contacted when they are available.

Recommended texts:

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

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); *Collected Poems
Volume 1*.

Elizabeth Bishop, *Poems, Prose and Letters*

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

Paul Muldoon, "Towards an Ars Poetica" (Essay); *Poems 1968-1998*

Anne Carson, *Decreation: Poetry, Essays, Opera;*

If Not, Winter: Fragments of Sappho

James Fenton, "A Lesson from Michelangelo" "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"

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Students are required to complete **three** of the following assessment tasks. Each assignment is worth one third of the final mark. All assignments should be approximately 3,000 words long, with the exception of the poetry portfolio.

1. A close study of the work of one poet, looking in particular at the relation between their stated poetics and the work they produce.
2. A study of a group of poets who belong to a single school or movement, looking at the relation between the work they produce and the manifesto or aims of the literary movement.
3. A study of the work of one critic or reviewer, examining the relation between their judgement of individual works and their poetics - whether stated or implied.
4. The study of a particular poetic form – eg the sonnet – looking at how differently it has been approached by different poets and/or in different periods.
5. 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.
6. A submission 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 the author's own poetics.

Each essay is designed to assess your ability to analyse and communicate an issue or set of issues pertaining to the relation between poetry and poetics. While each essay assignment assesses the same skills, you are required to write more than one essay – each of which will approach the topic from a different angle and will draw on different research – because the additional work promotes a deeper and broader

understanding of the issues and requires a more extensive knowledge of contemporary poetry. The sixth assignment option, writing poetry, allows you to explore the practical application of the study of these issues and is, in itself, one of the most effective ways to study poetics. Students may choose whether or not to submit their poetry for assessment but all students are encouraged to experiment with writing poetry whether for credit or not.

One assignment should be handed in by each of the due dates. Students can choose which assignment to hand in on each date. The due dates are Friday, 8 April; Friday 13 May; and Friday 4 June.

ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Programme office. Remember to fill in your tutor's name.

PENALTIES AND EXTENSIONS

Due dates for the assignments for this course can be negotiated by the class as a whole. Individual students who require an extension for exceptional reasons must complete an extension request form (available on your course Blackboard site) prior to the assignment due date and must see me to discuss the situation.

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.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To gain a pass in this course you must:

- Submit the written work specified for this course, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)
- Attend a minimum of eight classes. Students are expected of course to attend all classes, and should explain any absences.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

STATEMENT ON LEGIBILITY

You are expected to present work that meets appropriate standards. Work submitted during the course (i. e. work that is internally assessed) should be typed or prepared on a computer. Work submitted in the final examination will obviously be handwritten. You are expected to write clearly. Where work is deemed 'illegible', you will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) within a specified time frame.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

WHERE TO FIND MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study.

Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress. Most statutes and policies are available at

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic.

COURSE PROGRAMME

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

Week 1	2 March	Poetry and its evaluation
Week 2	9 March	William Carlos Williams and Ezra Pound Readings: Ezra Pound, <i>Selected Poems; 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	16 March	The sonnet / poetry workshop
Week 4	23 March	Elizabeth Bishop and Tom Paulin / poetry workshop 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; Selected Poems</i>
Week 5	30 March	Ballad and lyric / poetry workshop
Week 6	6 April	Paul Muldoon and Anne Carson / poetry workshop Readings: Paul Muldoon, "Towards an Ars Poetica" (Essay); <i>Poems 1968-1998</i> Anne Carson, <i>If Not, Winter: Fragments of Sappho; Decreation: Poetry, Essays, Opera</i> First assignment due Friday 8 April
Week 7	13 April	Student-led discussion / poetry workshop
Mid Trimester Break: Monday 18 April – Sunday 1 May 2011		
Week 8	4 May	Student-led discussion / poetry workshop
Week 9	11 May	Student-led discussion / poetry workshop Second assignment due 13 May

Week 10 18 May Student-led discussion / poetry workshop

Week 11 25 May Student-led discussion / poetry workshop

Week 12 2 June Concluding discussion

Final assignment due 4 June

Study Week: Monday 6 June to Friday 10 June 2011

Examination Period: Friday 10 June to Saturday 2 July 2011

There is no exam for this course.