
English 11

Introduction to Poetry

Texts

- X. J. Kennedy & Dana Gioia, *An Introduction to Poetry*, 13th ed., Longman, 2010
- Pablo Neruda, *The Essential Neruda*, Mark Eisner, editor, City Lights, 2004
- Peterson, et. al., *Local Habitations: Laurel Edition*, Robertson Publishing, 2013

Required Materials

- Notebook, blue or black ink pens, paper
- 2 large (8 ½ x 11") Exam Bluebooks

Course Description

This course is divided into two nearly-equal halves. The first half of the course is spent building competency as readers in the literary genre of poetry. We do this very systematically by studying the elements of poetry in our Kennedy/Gioia text (imagery, rhythm, form, etc.). We'll read a wide variety of mostly lyric poems in English, culminating in a few case studies of major 19th & 20th century poets: Emily Dickinson, Langston Hughes, and T. S. Eliot. We'll take a midterm exam at this point.

During the second half of the course, we'll apply what we've learned by writing analytical papers and performing poems individually in oral presentations. Then we'll devote ourselves to an intensive study of a major 20th century poet with a global reputation, Nobel Prize Winner Pablo Neruda. We'll also briefly explore some extra-literary poetic forms, such as slam and video poetry. At the end, we'll study our local poetry scene through the work of five Santa Clara county poets, and you'll produce a research paper on a poet of your choice. Then we'll take a final examination.

Assignments

- *Analysis Paper*—a 3-5 page paper that analyzes the function of one or more elements within a single poem chosen from Kennedy/Gioia's "Poems for Further Study" chapter. 100 points possible.
- *Research Paper* – a 6-10 page paper that explores the life and work of a poet in the Kennedy/Gioia text that you would like to study beyond the bounds of our assigned reading. 200 points possible.
- *Midterm Exam*—a short answer and short essay examination on major concepts, terminology, and theory covered in the first half of our course. 100 points possible.

- *Final Exam*—a short answer and short essay examination on major concepts, terminology, and theory covered in the second half of our course. 100 points possible.
- *Oral Presentation*—performance and explication of the poem that is the subject of your Analysis Paper. 60 points possible.
- *Quizzes*—4 quizzes, 10 points each, on terms and concepts from our reading. 40 points possible. *There are no make-ups for missed quizzes.*
- *Journal*—a small collection of exploratory writings and in-class assignments, both assigned and self-generated, that reflect upon our reading. 100 points possible.

Grades

669-700	A+	478-509	C+
637-668	A	447-477	C
605-636	A-	415-446	D+
574-604	B+	383-414	D
542-573	B	351-382	D-
510-541	B-	0-350	F

Policies

Classroom Behavior Expectations: Please set your cell phones on “silent” while you are in class. For obvious educational reasons (not to mention common courtesy) you may not play games, listen to music, or text message during our class session. If you receive an emergency call during class, please walk outside to take the call. Also, please limit your private conversations during our class sessions. Food is prohibited; however, water is OK. I expect you to bring your personal copies of our texts to class with you to every class session, as well as a notebook, pens, and paper. I also expect you to be a fully engaged, active participant in this class while you are enrolled in it.

Participation: This is a very important part of this class. I really expect you to be reading and thinking actively, critically, and creatively. This is not a class in which you can cruise along in neutral gear for long. I will call on you regularly and keep track of your responses. When you’re in class, be prepared, focused, on task. As part of your participation in this class, you will read aloud on a regular basis, both from our texts and from your Journal. When called upon to read, speak loudly and clearly.

Academic Integrity: Representing someone else’s work as your own, whether accidental or intentional, will result in a grade of 0 on that assignment and possible disciplinary action under the guidelines of De Anza College’s statement on academic integrity (www.deanza.edu/studenthandbook/academic-integrity.html).

Paper Business: You must have regular access to the internet to be successful in this class, including a working email address. Paper topics will be announced and described on my web site well in advance of the due dates. Check the web site regularly for details. Late papers will receive a 5-point deduction per day. There is no such thing as a late Research Paper, since it is due on the last day of the quarter. There are no rewrites for poorly-written papers; do it right the first time.

Turnitin.com: You will submit your out-of-class papers for this class to this web site. Visit the site ASAP and click on the “Training” link on the top gray banner. Then click on “Student Training” and watch the four video tutorials on how to set up your account and upload papers. If you’re already familiar with Turnitin.com, you may go straight to the “Student Quickstart Guide” button near the bottom of the page for a quick review of the process. Our course ID number and password can be found on the first paper assignment instructions on my De Anza web site.

After you have set up your account, scroll down to the gray bar at the bottom of the page and click on the “Plagiarism.org” link for a definition of plagiarism, tips for preventing it, and guidelines and suggestions for proper citation methods, etc. I will hold you responsible for the information found there. Among other things, Turnitin.com will search the web for language matches with your paper once you upload it, issuing an “originality report” to me, which tells the percentage of language your paper shares with other similar writings found on the internet. A certain low-level amount of shared language is possible, considering brief quotes, etc., within your papers. But whether intentional or accidental, if your originality report on any given paper that you submit to this class climbs above 25%, you will receive an ‘F’ on that assignment.

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If I feel physically as if the top of my head were taken off, I know that is poetry.
--Emily Dickinson

Poetry is prose bewitched.
--Mina Loy

[Poetry is] the clear expression of mixed feelings.
--W. H. Auden

[Poetry is] an angel with a gun in its hand . . .
--Jose Garcia Villa

[Poetry is] the language in which man explores his own amazement.
--Christopher Fry