

NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

The City University of New York

Fall 2018

ENG 2003: Introduction to Poetry
(3 hours, 3 credits)

Dr. Nina Bannett

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Office Hours: Wednesdays, 11:30-12:30 or by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Reading poetry is like being a detective. Sights and sounds work together to enhance meaning and create ambiguity. We will work in small groups, individually, through research, and online assignments to understand a variety of poetic forms available to poets. We'll examine the choices a poet makes, and try to understand why he or she makes them. We'll discuss the value of poetry in a wider world through analysis and critical understanding of selected poems. Exams and essays based on readings.

PREREQUISITES: ENG 1101 (3 hours, 3 credits)

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of ENG 2003, you will be able to 1-Analyze poems in class discussion and in writing assignments, deliver informative and analytical oral presentations about poems and their authors, interpret the works, probing for layers of meaning, and levels of thought in the language of the poem, through literary conventions of close reading and comparison, understand poems as creative expressions of human experience, in their biographical, cultural and historical context, through discussion, analysis and research across a variety of sources and from a variety of points of view, analyze the structure and versification, examine other components of the works (speaker, dramatic situation, imagery, metaphor, irony, figures of speech, diction, rhythm, meter, form) and explain how the transmission of meaning through poems benefits from them, and appreciate the artistic and cultural importance of poetry as both a traditionally oral form and a written form, through the oral presentation of poems and the analysis of the relationship between poetry on the page and poetry in performance.

COURSE TEXTS:

1. *Bedford's 250 Poems: A Portable Anthology*. ISBN-13: 978-1-4576-3692-9; This is a required book that you must bring to class). Available in college bookstore.
2. *Rules of Thumb*. 9th edition (no earlier editions) ISBN # 9780073405964 (recommended handbook if you don't have one)

Reading and re-reading poems is absolutely essential for succeeding in our course. You must use Bedford's 250 poems and you need to bring it to every class. Some of the poems we will study will be poems that are online—check the Open Lab site for links to these texts. We will also be reading some short essays that illuminate different aspects of poetry—links to these essays will be posted on Open Lab.

We will be using City Tech's Open Lab site for this course, as a place where you can find course documents, watch related course videos, and also for a course blog for students to share ideas about the readings (see handout on Blogs for more information). The website address for City Tech's Open Lab is <http://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu>

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Attendance of all classes is ideal because class participation is part of your course grade. Students who stop attending the class altogether and don't return to take the final exam will receive a grade of WU in the course. Sporadic attendance, along with incomplete or substandard written work, will result in a grade of F. If you know now that you cannot attend class regularly, please consider dropping the course. Please do not schedule doctor appointments or work schedules during class time.

LATENESS POLICY: Please avoid being late. Class begins promptly and I expect students to be on time. Lateness disrupts the class and causes you to miss important announcements, activities, and to fall behind. If you are late to class, it will severely affect your participation grade in the course. If you know you will have regular problems arriving to class on time, you should consider taking the course another time.

CLASSROOM POLICY: Please come to class prepared: do the assigned reading in advance and always bring the reading with you. Please don't eat in class, and keep your cell phone off at all times unless directed otherwise—no texting, please! Do not leave class to make or receive phone calls since doing so will negatively affect your participation grade. Be an active classroom presence by participating in class discussions and group activities.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

2 Comparative Essays of 4-5 pages: 40% (20%= essay #1, 20%=research essay #2)
 Course Blog (3 required posts, 3 required comments, and 10 required vocabulary entries): 25%
 In-Class Group Work, Quizzes, and Discussions: 10%
 Midterm Exam: 10 %
 Final Exam: 15%

You may not pass ENG 2003 without completing the required work that leads to a passing grade. Submitting late work will lead to a grade penalty, and late blog posts will not count towards your grade.

OPEN LAB COURSE BLOG

We will be using City Tech's Open Lab, a digital learning platform for our course. If you are not a member, you must join the site itself and then our course. Here's the address for the Open Lab home page:

<https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/>

On our Open Lab site, you will find course materials and links to readings, as well as videos and related materials. There will be three required types of assignments for you to complete on our Open Lab site:

- The first requirement is to write **3 blog posts** (specific topics, instructions, and specific due dates will be given to you later).
- The second requirement is for students to write **3 comments** on blog posts of other students. Your comments must be posted before the next Blog Post topic is assigned. Posting more than 3 comments will result in extra credit.
- The third requirement is to post **10 vocabulary entries** to our class glossary (the format and a model vocabulary entry will be discussed in class and posted on Open Lab.) *You must write and post 5 vocabulary entries before the midterm and post the remaining 5 entries before the final exam.*

Participation on our Open Lab site is essential since the three assignments above will together count for 25% of your course grade. If you have questions about Open Lab, please let me know. Help is also available through student workshops run by the Open Lab team.

LATE PAPERS: Both formal papers are due in class and on time (*no email submissions*). I will deduct one full letter grade if a paper is late, and if a paper is more than 1 week late, the grade becomes an automatic F. Unfortunately, credit cannot be given for late blog posts since these are *time-sensitive*. Comments on Blog Posts #1, 2, and 3 must be posted within two weeks after the due date for the original post unless a change is listed on the syllabus.

FORMAT FOR PAPERS

Your papers must be typed, in essay form (4 pages minimum) and should be written in MLA (Modern Language Association) 2016 format, with in-text citations and quotation marks for all direct quotations, and a Works Cited for any paper involving research. Remember, using someone else's words or ideas without proper documentation is considered plagiarism. Penalties for plagiarism will be a failing grade in your paper and/or the course, and your action will be reported to the College's Academic Integrity Officer as is required. Academic integrity is expected of all students-see college statement below.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Students who work with information, ideas, and texts owe their audience and sources accuracy and honesty in using, crediting, and citing sources. As a community of intellectual and professional workers, the College recognizes its responsibility for providing instruction in information literacy and academic integrity, offering models of good practice, and responding vigilantly and appropriately to infractions of academic integrity. Accordingly, academic dishonesty is prohibited in CUNY and at NYC College of Technology, and is punishable by penalties, including failing grades, suspension, and expulsion. The complete text of the College policy on Academic Integrity may be found in the catalog.

OFFICE HOURS AND CONFERENCES

While conferences outside of class are not required, you may find it helpful to see me to get feedback on your work. I am happy to speak with you about the writing process or any aspect of the course. My office hour is Wednesdays, 11:30-12:30 but I may be available at other times; to find out, ask me after class or email me. Please keep any appointment you make with me or notify me by phone (718-260-5392) or email me at nbannett@citytech.cuny.edu that you can't make it. My office is Namm 512, the main English departmental office.

ENG 2003: Introduction to Poetry: Fall 2018
Prof. Nina Barnett

<i>Mon, Aug 27</i>	Introduction to course: what is poetry and why do we study it? Introduction to City Tech's Open Lab and course blogging requirements
<i>Wed, Aug 29</i>	What are the challenges/rewards of reading poetry; discussion of Billy Collins' poem "Introduction to Poetry" https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/46712/introduction-to-poetry
<i>Mon, Sept 3</i>	<i>college is closed: no class scheduled</i>
<i>Wed, Sept 5</i>	Discussion of Mark Yakish's essay "Reading a Poem: 20 Strategies" https://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2014/11/how-to-read-poetry-a-step-by-step-guide/380657/ Blog Post #1 to be assigned
<i>Mon, Sept 10</i>	<i>no class scheduled</i>
<i>Mon, Sept 12</i>	The Sonnet /Speaker: Discussion of Shakespeare's sonnet 18 p. 13, Shakespeare's sonnet 130 p.14; "Annotating a Poem" pp.306-308
<i>Wed, Sept 19</i>	<i>no class scheduled</i>
<i>Mon, Sept 24</i>	The Sonnet (continued): Discussion of Edna St. Vincent Millay's "Pity Me Not Because of the Light of Day" p. 133 and Claude McKay's "America" p. 132 Paper #1 to be assigned
<i>Wed, Sept 26</i>	The Sonnet (continued): Ada Limón's "Instructions on Not Giving Up" (online) https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/instructions-not-giving
<i>Mon, Oct 1</i>	The Sonnet (continued): Discussion of Rita Dove's "Persephone, Falling," (online) https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/persephone-falling "Found Sonnet: The Wig" (online) https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2016/05/09/found-sonnet-the-wig

- Wed, Oct 3* Workshop on Paper #1—bring draft and questions
Discussion of “Writing a Short Paper about Poems” pp. 310-315
- Mon, Oct 8* college closed—no class scheduled
- Wed, Oct 10* **Paper #1 is due**
Imagism: Discussion of William Carlos Williams’ “The Red Wheelbarrow” p. 116, “This is Just to Say” p. 118 and Amy Lowell’s “Aliens” (online) <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poetrymagazine/poems/13213/aliens>
Blog Post #1 to be assigned
- Mon, Oct 15* **The Ballad:** Anonymous’s “My Boy Willie” (handout) and Gwendolyn Brooks’ “We Real Cool” p.165
- Wed, Oct 17* **The Prose Poem**
Discussion of W.S. Merwin’s “The Lonely Child” (handout)
Lydia Davis’s, “The Thirteenth Woman” (handout)
Mark Strand, “Success Story” (handout)
- Mon, Oct 22* The Prose Poem (continued):
Discussion of Sarah Manguso’s “What We Miss” (handout)
Andrei Codrescu’s “Power” (handout)
Jennifer L. Knox’s “Hot Ass Poem” (handout)
Blog Post #1 is due on Open Lab
- Wed, Oct 24* **Midterm Exam**
Deadline for posting first five vocabulary entries on Open Lab
- Mon, Oct 29* **The Villanelle:** Discussion of Elizabeth Bishop’s “One Art”, p.155 and Dylan Thomas’s “Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night” p. 161
Blog Post #2 to be assigned
- Wed, Oct 31* **Couplets:** Discussion of Margaret Atwood’s “True Stories” pp.217-218, Alicia Ostriker’s “Thirsting” (online) and Seamus Heaney’s “Scaffolding (online)
- Mon, Nov 5* **Confessional poetry:** Discussion of Sylvia Plath’s “Daddy,” pp. 195-197 and “You’re” (online) <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/49010/youre>
Revised Paper #1 is due—hand in your original paper with rubric, your revised paper, and a one-paragraph summary of changes you’ve made

- Wed, Nov 7* Confessional poetry: Anne Sexton's "The Fury of Overshoes" and "The Child Bearers" (online)
<https://www.poemhunter.com/poem/the-fury-of-overshoes/>
<https://www.poemhunter.com/poem/the-child-bearers/>
- Mon, Nov 12* **Open Forms:** Walt Whitman's "I Hear America Singing" (online)
<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/46480/i-hear-america-singing>
 and Langston Hughes's "I Too" <https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/i-too>
Paper #2 to be assigned
- Wed, Nov 14* Open Forms (continued): Pedro Pietri's "Puerto Rican Obituary" (online)
<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/58396/puerto-rican-obituary>
- Mon, Nov 19* Open Forms (continued): Nancy Miller Gomez's "Discovering Colors in Prison" and "Fine Dining in Cell Block C" (handouts)
 Andrew Grace's "Not a Mile" (online)
<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2018/04/23/not-a-mile>
Blog Post #2 is due on OpenLab
- Wed, Nov 21* Open Forms (continued) Julia Alvarez's "All American Girl":
<http://www.bronxarts.org/documents/pdfbigread.pdf>
 "Folding My Clothes": <https://writersalmanac.org/episodes/20170611/>
- Mon, Nov 26* library workshop on doing research—meet at library (tentative date)
- Wed, Nov 28* workshop on Paper #2: bring sources and your draft with you!
- Mon, Dec 3* **Spoken Word poetry:** definition and discussion of Franny Choi's "Choi Jeong Min":
 Franny Choi's "Choi Jeong Min" video: <http://frannychoi.com/>

 text of "Choi Jeong Min"--
<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poetrymagazine/poems/58784/choi-jeong-min>

 video of Franny Choi's "Sweat"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O1B6IKFtnNc>

 text of "Sweat"
<http://ithacalit.com/franny-choi.html>

“Field Trip to the Museum of Natural History”

video and text of “Field Trip”-- <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/poetry/poet-franny-choi-pictures-a-world-without-police/>

Wed, Dec 5

Blog Post #3 to be assigned

Spoken Word poetry: film screening of *Louder than a Bomb* (2011)

Mon, Dec 10

Spoken Word: finish watching *Louder than a Bomb* (2011);

Paper #2 is due

Wed, Dec 12

Spoken Word poetry (continued)

Elizabeth Acevedo’s “Hair”:

<http://afrodiaspores.tumblr.com/post/106802513979/my-mother-tells-me-to-fix-my-hair-and-by-fix>

video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6rtRmFpc8D8>

Last day to post remaining 5 vocabulary entries in course glossary on Open Lab

Mon, Dec 17

Review for final exam, student questionnaire on the course

Blog Post #3 is due by midnight

Wed, Dec 19

Final exam; return of paper #2; final discussion

Last day to comment on Blog Post #3