

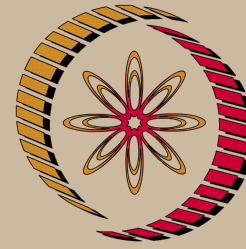
Reading Poetry - Web course

COURSE OUTLINE

This course is an introduction to the basic tools required to read and understand poetry in an informed manner and as an active rather than passive reader. It assigns tasks in close reading and practical criticism to help the student to practice both thematic and formal analysis of poems. It is also meant to enable the student to gain confidence in using technical terms related to poetry and critically interpreting poems.

COURSE DETAIL

| Module No. | Topics | No. of Lectures |
|------------|---|-----------------|
| | <p>Some basic tools required to read poetry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction: William Carlos Williams, 'The Red Wheelbarrow' 2. Perception: William Wordsworth, 'The Daffodils' 3. Paradox: Robert Frost, 'The Road Not Taken' 4. Symbolism: Emily Dickinson, 'A Narrow Fellow in the Grass' 5. Imagery: Agha Shahid Ali, 'Postcard from Kashmir' | 5 |
| 2. | <p>Schools of thought</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6. The | 10 |



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Humanities and Social Sciences

Pre-requisites:

- A Higher Secondary level education may be beneficial while taking this course, but there are no essential prerequisites as long as the course-taker is fairly proficient in the English language.

Additional Reading:

- Adams, Stephen. Poetic Designs: An Introduction to Meters, Verse Forms and Figures of Speech. Peterborough, Canada: Broadview Press, 1997.
- Bloom, Harold. The Art of Reading Poetry. New York: Perennial, 2005.
- Caplan, David. Poetic Form: An Introduction. Longman, 2007.
- Perrine, Laurence. Sound and Sense: An Introduction to Poetry. 12th Edition. New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, 2007.
- Vendler, Helen. Poems, Poets, Poetry: An Introduction and Anthology. New York, NY: Bedford, 2002

Hyperlinks:

- <http://www.english.illinois.edu/maps/poets.htm>
- <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/615/01/>
- <http://uwc.utexas.edu/handouts/poetry-analysis>

Coordinators:

- Elizabethans:
Christopher Marlowe, 'The Passionate Shepherd to His Love'
- 7. The Romantics:
Samuel Taylor Coleridge, 'Kubla Khan'
 - 8. The Victorians:
Matthew Arnold, 'Dover Beach'
 - 9. Transcendentalism:
Walt Whitman, 'Song of Myself'
 - 10. Modernism: T.S. Eliot, 'Preludes'
 - 11. Confessional Poetry: Sylvia Plath, 'Mirror'
 - 12. The Beat Generation: Allen Ginsberg, 'A Supermarket in California'
 - 13. Feminism: Adrienne Rich, 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers'
 - 14. Gay and Lesbian Poetry: Agha Shahid Ali, 'The Correspondent'
 - 15. Postcolonialism: Agha Shahid Ali, 'The Dacca Gauzes'

3. **Forms of Poetry**

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- 16. The Sonnet: John Keats, 'When I have Fears'
- 17. The Ode: Auden, 'Ode to the Medieval Poets'
- 18. The Villanelle: Elizabeth Bishop, 'One Art'
- 19. The Ghazal: Agha Shahid Ali, 'Arabic'
- 20. Experimental verse: Grasshopper

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| 4. | Post-modernism | 13 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21. 'Beyond the Ash Rains' • 22. 'And the City Stood in its Brightness' • 23. 'The Emperor of Ice Cream' • 24. 'The Country without a Post Office' • 25. 'Farewell' • 26. 'Sweet like a Crow' • 27. 'A History of Paisley' • 28. 'I know Why the Caged Bird Sings' • 29. Denise Levertov, 'The Sharks' • 30. 'Notes on the Sea's Existence' • 31. 'This is a Photograph of Me' • 32. 'Punishment in Kindergarten' • 33. 'Leaving Sonora' | |
| 5. | Contemporary poetry | 6 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 34. 'Base' • 35. 'Anne Hathaway' • 36. 'On the Origins of Things' • 37. 'From a Journal' • 38. 'All Days Lost Days' • 39. 'Two Countries' | |
| 6. | Conclusion: | 2 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40. Agha Shahid Ali, 'The Veiled Suite' • 41. Concluding Remarks | |
| Total | | 41 |

References:

1. Fry, Stephen. *The Ode Less Travelled: Unlocking the Poet Within*. New York: Gotham Books, 2005.
2. Hunter, J. Paul. *The Norton Introduction to Poetry*, 7th ed. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1999.