

TERM: Spring 2025

COURSE NUMBER & CATEGORY: ENGL 2107: Intro to Poetry

COURSE TITLE: Intro to Poetry

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: MWF 1:40-2:50 pm

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Michelle Bitting

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS:

Poetry Matters is a creative writing and theory of poetics course where students have an opportunity to compose original poems while studying basic craft, form, and critical elements of poetry from the 20th and 21st century canons. 19th century poetry, alongside prior century forms and sensibilities are also studied to appreciate their impact on modern poetics. Taking to heart former U.S. Poet Laureate Rita Dove's tenet "Poetry is language at its most distilled and most powerful"— this course invites students to express themselves through language and to hone their overall writing skills as they explore contemporary/modern poetry by reading and analyzing work from its historical movements. In turn, students will demonstrate techniques observed through the writing they generate and their attention to workshopping collaboratively with fellow students. Strong focus will center on developing a foundational understanding of craft (line, image, syntax, rhythm, language, metaphor), a critical vocabulary for in-class discussion of poetry and poetics, and a sense of poetry's connection to vital personal/political forces of the past and present.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of this course, students will be able to identify and apply the key complementary components of poetry. They will also be able to identify and describe various styles, structures, and modes of contemporary/modern poetry and apply this knowledge in both classroom critique and revision. They will be able to identify and explain the uses and effects of metaphor, imagery, rhyme, rhythm, and scansion in master works of poetry as well as in their own work and the work of their classmates. They will design and formulate their own poems using modern and contemporary poems as models. Students will demonstrate a fundamental understanding of the poetic canon, its "players" and movements, and the various works studied in relation to the topic of this course: Poetry Matters. They will be able to demonstrate skill and proficiency in discussing poetry and poetics both orally and in writing.

CLASS LEVEL RESTRICTION:

N/A

RECOMMENDED/PREREQUISITES:

N/A

COURSE ATTRIBUTES:

This course does not count toward the English major or minor requirements; however, English majors interested in creative writing are advised to take one lower-division ENGL 2100 course to satisfy the Core Curriculum EXP: Creative Experience requirement.

CORE ATTRIBUTES:

Creative Experience (ECRE)