

Spring 2-1-2017

LIT 120L.01: Introduction to Poetry

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The University of Montana

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Introduction to Poetry—Spring 2017

LIT 120.01—MWF 9:00-9:50—LA 106

LIT 120.02—MWF 11:00-11:50—LA 342

Henrietta Goodman—COR 337—Office Hours—MWF 10:00-10:50 (and by appt)
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Course Description: This course serves as an introduction to reading and writing about poetry. The course will deepen your understanding and appreciation of poetry as a thriving contemporary art through close reading and daily discussion. You will read and discuss poems from a variety of movements and in a variety of modes, both historical and contemporary, and you will use methods of analysis/interpretation including reader-response, formal analysis, and comparison/contrast. Since this is a UM-approved Intermediate Writing course, you will learn to apply the techniques of literary analysis in well-supported and well-structured critical essays. The learning outcomes for IW courses at UM are as follows:

- Compose written documents that are appropriate for a given audience or purpose
- Formulate and express opinions and ideas in writing
- Use writing to learn and synthesize new concepts
- Revise written work based on constructive feedback
- Find, evaluate, and use information effectively
- Begin to use discipline-specific writing conventions (largely style conventions like APA or MLA)
- Demonstrate appropriate English language usage

This course requires an electronic submission (via Moodle) of an assignment stripped of your personal information to be used for educational research and assessment of the University's writing program. Your paper will be stored in a database. A random selection of papers will be assessed by a group of faculty and staff using a rubric developed from the learning outcomes listed above. This assessment in no way affects your course grade or your progression at the University.

Course Requirements: You will write three short papers (3-4 pages) and one slightly longer paper (4-5 pages). You must revise one of these papers and may revise any/all of them except for paper 4. When you revise a paper, your revision grade will replace your original grade. Since time constraints at the end of the semester do not allow for revision of paper 4, I recommend that you discuss this paper with me during your writing process. Papers must be typed (double-spaced, with 1" margins and 12 pt. font). I will provide detailed written instructions, including due dates and grading criteria, for each paper.

You will have frequent informal writing assignments, and you will give an oral presentation on a poet of your choice. You will take a midterm and a final exam.

This course is most engaging and productive when it is primarily discussion-based, rather than lecture-based. For this reason, preparedness for class and participation in daily discussions are essential.

Grading: Papers-----50%
Participation and informal writing-----20%
Oral presentation-----10%
Midterm and final exam (10% each)-----20%

Late Paper Policy: Papers should be submitted at the beginning of class on the day they are due. I will accept only printed papers (no emailed papers, please). For each day that a paper is late, the grade for the paper will drop by 5 points (half a letter-grade). On in-class workshop days, you must bring a printed draft of your paper to class. If you do not bring a draft, you will receive a half absence for the day.

Attendance: You are allowed four absences without penalty. Each additional absence will cause your **course grade** to drop by half of a letter grade (5 points per absence). Under extreme circumstances, please speak with me.

Academic Honesty: Plagiarism is the use of another person’s words or ideas without attribution and is a violation of the Student Conduct Code. Since most plagiarism is accidental, rather than deliberate, we will spend some class time addressing the appropriate use of quoted (and other “borrowed”) material.

Disability Accommodation: The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you have a disability that adversely affects your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

Extra Credit: Many UM-sponsored readings and other local literary events will take place during the semester. To receive extra credit, you may attend a pre-approved event and submit a one-page typed response. This is an excellent way to compensate for an absence or late paper or to raise your participation grade.

Texts: *Poetry: An Introduction* (7th ed.), Michael Meyer
The Best American Poetry 2016, David Lehman and Edward Hirsch, eds.
(please note that you must have the **2016** edition of the above text)