Fall 9-1-2000

ENLT 121.02: Introduction to Poetry

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TEXTBOOKS:
--photocopied packets (later in the semester)

CLASS POLICIES:
--Every day come prepared for writing and/or discussion, both as a class and in smaller groups.
--Attendance is mandatory, as if you were in a gym class or a foreign language conversation class. If you miss more than three classes, your grade may go down.
--Grading: 25% for daily grade (journal, homework, in-class participation), the rest for three short papers (plus an optional revision) and a final project (presentation + paper).
--Plagiarism: You are encouraged to read what other people have written, and to bring that information into your discussion and papers, as long as you give credit to your sources. Students who rip off other people's language and ideas will be cast forth with harsh words (and a failing grade).

GAME PLAN: (see schedule)
The semester will be divided into three parts:
--What We Talk About When We Talk About Poems: approaches and terminology (and review of writing skills);
--Poetry Begins at Home: the local poetry scene, with visits to the class (photocopied collection in progress); and
--Umpteen Ways of Looking at a Poem: intensive application.

Generally, out-of-class writing will be turned in on Monday (typed), group work will be on Wednesday, and on Friday expect to show off what you've learned in class discussion and/or welcome guests.

OTHER:
--Journal: Plan to write in it minimum three times a week--more is better. Use it as you read for class: write down your first (and later) responses to poems and the textbook, definitions of words, questions and observations and speculation. Each time you write in it, note the date, place, and time, and anything else you want to say about the moment. You may combine the journal with your regular class notebook; you may also use the computer. I'll check midterm and again at the end.
--Readings: You are strongly encouraged to attend local poetry readings (credit to be negotiated).
SCHEDULE

Wed. 9/6 -- introduction, writing sample.
Mon. 9/11 -- one-page letters due on one poem from handout.
Mon. 10/2 -- Paper #1 due -- explication.
Fri. 10/13 -- Poetry Potluck (local poets invited).
Mon. 10/16 -- Paper #2 due -- essay on craft (on original poem, or equivalent exercise).
Fri. 10/20 -- Poetry Potluck (local poets invited).
Fri. 10/27 -- Poetry Potluck (local poets invited).
Mon. 10/30 - Wed. 11/15--individual midterm conferences, extra hours scheduled MWF.
Fri. 11/3 -- Meet at computer lab in Mansfield Library with Sue Samson, humanities librarian and poet.
Mon. 11/6 -- Paper #3 due -- comparison/contrast.
Fri. 11/10 -- Veteran’s Day holiday, NO CLASSES
Mon. 11/13 -- Proposal for final project due.
Fri. 11/17 - Fri. 12/1 -- Presentations for final paper.
Fri. 11/24 -- Thanksgiving holiday, NO CLASSES
Mon. 12/4 -- Fri. 12/8 -- Write papers (no official class)
Mon. 12/11 - Wed. 12/13 -- Work on drafts of final paper.
Fri. 12/15 -- Paper #5 due; course evaluations.