ENLT 121.02: Introduction to Poetry

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The University of Montana

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MARTHA ELIZABETH
Fall 2000 Office: LA 212
Phone: 243-5267
Hours: MWF 10:10-11:00 a.m.
and by appointment

ENLT 121.01
MWF 9:10-10:00 a.m.
LA 304

ENLT 121.02
MWF 1:10-2:00 p.m.
LA 201

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.