

ÇANKAYA UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
SPRING 2025-2026

ELL 472
Contemporary Poetry

Dr. Özkan Çakırlar

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Description and Objectives:

This course will introduce students to English poetry of the second half of the 20th century through representative texts. The new spirit in English poetry after World War II, imaginative freedom, linguistic experimentation, images of nature, man, and society, and issues related to class, gender, culture, language and ethnicity will be discussed in poems by Irish, Scottish, and English poets as well as the post-colonial ones.

Course Activities:

During the semester the students should

1. Read the assigned texts before coming to class,
2. Participate in class discussions,
3. Present poems when they are assigned,
4. Attend one midterm and one final exam.

References:

Abrams, M. H., et al., eds. *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*. Vol. 2.
Greenblatt, Stephen et al., eds *The Norton Anthology of English Literature: The 20th and 21st Centuries*.
Volume F, New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2018.
Lucie-Smith, Edward, ed. *British Poetry since 1945*. Middlesex: Penguin, 1970.
Morrison, Blake, and Andrew Motion, eds. *The Penguin Book of Contemporary British Poetry*. Middlesex: Penguin, 1982.

Course Requirements and Means of Evaluation:

100% attendance is recommended at all classes. A minimum **attendance of 60% is mandatory. Students who do not meet this requirement will not be permitted to take the final examination.** Attendance and contribution to classes and discussions are vital for success in this class. Students' contributions to class work, discussions, and presentations will be taken into consideration in assigning their final grades. Final grades will include:

1. Midterm Exam	30 %
2. Presentations	30 %
3. Final Exam	40 %

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week 1 (Feb. 16-20)	Discussion on the Course Syllabus, Selection of the Poems to be Presented and Introduction to Contemporary Poetry Elizabeth Jennings, "One Flesh"
Week 2 (Feb. 23-27)	Louis MacNeice, "The Truisms" Donald Davie, "Housekeeping" Thom Gunn, "Considering the Snail"
Week 3 (March 2-6)	Philip Larkin, "Talking in Bed" / "Aubade" Ted Hughes, "Relic" / "Theology"
Week 4 (March 9-13)	Seamus Heaney, "Digging" / "Punishment" Eavan Boland, "In Which the Ancient History I Learn Is Not My Own"
Week 5 (March 16-19)	Tony Harrison, "Heredity" / "Them and Uz" / "Book Ends"
Week 6 (March 23-27)	Douglas Dunn, "Men of Terry Street" / "A Removal from Terry Street" / "Empires"
Week 7 (March 30-April 3)	MIDTERM EXAM
Week 8 (April 6-10)	Evaluation of Midterm Exam and Feedback
Week 9 (April 13-17)	Nation, Race, Language, Gender Louise Bennett, "Colonization in Reverse" Grace Nichols, "The Fat Black Woman" / "Weeping Woman"
Week 10 (April 20-24)	Nourbese Philip, "Discourse on the Logic of Language" Patience Agbabi, "Prologue"
Week 11 (April 27-30)	Paul Muldoon, "Anseo" / "Meeting the British" Craig Raine, "A Martian Sends a Postcard Home,"
Week 12 (May 4-8)	Carol Ann Duffy, "Medusa" / "Havisham" / "Penelope"
Week 13 (May 11-15)	Andrew Motion, "A Dying Race" Simon Armitage, "The English Astronaut"
Week 14 (May 18-22)	May 19 Holiday No Class

I WISH US ALL A SUCCESSFUL SEMESTER