

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

ELL 560 Studies in Poetry

Dr. Özkan Çakırlar

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Description and Objectives:

This course will explore poetry, as a literary genre, focusing essentially on Modernism and the contemporary period. Through close reading and analysis of selected poems, students will develop an understanding of poetic techniques and language. We will examine how these techniques contribute to the meaning and impact of individual poems and reflect broader historical, social, and cultural contexts. The course will also address literary and cultural themes dominant in the second half of the twentieth century. By the end of the course, students are expected to:

- Identify and understand key poetic devices in poems to comprehend poetic language for the purpose of analysis and evaluation of the poetic texts,
- Develop their skills to connect poetic texts with historical and cultural contexts,
- Write insightful critical essays on selected poems.

Course Activities:

During the semester the students should

1. Read the assigned texts before coming to class,
2. Be prepared for writing response papers,
3. Participate in class discussions,
4. Present poems when they are assigned,
5. 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 and discussions as well as presentations and response papers will be taken into consideration in assigning their final grades. Final grades will include:

1. Response Paper Averages	20 %
2. Presentations	20 %
3. Midterm Exam	30 %
4. Final Exam	30 %

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week 1 (Feb. 16-20)	Discussion on the Course Syllabus / Response Paper 1 INTRODUCTION TO POETRY AND POETIC DISCOURSE Paraphrase, Denotation, Connotation, Imagery Browning, "Meeting at Night" Hayden, "Those Winter Sundays"
Week 2 (Feb. 23-27)	Figurative Language, Tone / Response Paper 2 Cornford, "The Guitarist Tunes Up" Francis, "The Hound" Ewart, "Ending" Eberhart, "For a Lamb" Dickinson, "Apparently with no surprise"
Week 3 (March 2-6)	Overstatement, Understatement, Irony, Symbol, Paradox Response Paper 3 Hughes, "Cross" Dickinson, "Much Madness is Divinest Sense" Cullen, "Incident" McGinley, "The Adversary" Herbert, "Virtue"
Week 4 (March 9-13)	MODERNIST MANIFESTOS F. S. Flint and Ezra Pound, "Imagisme" T. E. Hulme "A City Sunset" Williams, "Spring and All" Amy Lowell, "A Lady" E. E. Cummings, "O sweet spontaneous" Ezra Pound, "Salutation the Second"
Week 5 (March 19)	Ramadan Holiday No Class!
Week 6 (March 23-27)	Hugh MacDiarmid, <i>From</i> "In Memoriam James Joyce" T.S. Eliot, "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"
Week 7 (March 30-April 3)	REVISION & MIDTERM EXAM
Week 8 (April 6-10)	POETS ON POETRY / Response Paper 4 E. L. Masters "Petit, The Poet" Seamus Heaney, "Digging" Tony Harrison, "Heredity," "Them and Uz," Lawrence Ferlinghetti, "Constantly Risking Absurdity"
Week 9 (April 13-17)	NATION, RACE, CLASS, POST-COLONIAL CONFRONTATIONS Louise Bennett, "Colonization in Reverse" Paul Muldoon, "Meeting the British" Eavan Boland, "In Which the Ancient History I Learn Is Not My Own" Douglas Dunn, "Empires"

Week 10 (April 20-24)

April 23 Holiday No Class!

Week 11 (April 27-30)

LANGUAGE AND GENDER

Nourbese Philip, "Discourse on the Logic of Language"

Patience Agbabi, "Prologue"

Week 12 (May 4-8)

Sassoon, "Glory of Women" / **Response Paper 5**

Louise Bogan, "Women"

Edna St. Vincent Millay, "I, Being born a Woman and Distressed (Sonnet XLI)"

Week 13 (May 11-15)

REVISIONIST MYTHMAKING / Response Paper 6

Ostriker, Alicia. "The Thieves of Language: Women Poets and Revisionist Mythmaking"

www.jstor.org/stable/3173482

Carol Ann Duffy, "Medusa," "Penelope"

Grace Nichols, "The Fat Black Woman"; "Weeping Woman"

Week 14 (May 18-22)

POEMS FOR FURTHER READING

Craig Raine, "A Martian Sends a Postcard Home,"

Robinson Jeffers, "The Purse-Seine"

Sylvia Plath, "Daddy"

Revision for the Final Exam

I WISH US ALL A SUCCESSFUL SEMESTER