

B.A. (Honours) in Contemporary English Studies

Course Title	:	Contemporary Poetry as Text and Experience
Course Code	:	ENG374
Recommended Study Year	:	2 nd & 3 rd Year
No. of Credits/Term	:	3
Mode of Tuition	:	Lecture and Tutorial
Class Contact Hours	:	2 hours Lecture/week 1 hour Tutorial/week
Category in Major Programme	:	Disciplinary Elective
Prerequisite(s)	:	N/A
Co-requisite(s)	:	N/A
Exclusion(s)	:	N/A
Exemption Requirement(s)	:	N/A

Brief Course Description

This course is designed to present an array of contemporary and modern poetry in English and to encourage an appreciation of the craft of writing. As well as reading and appreciating texts written by others, students will be encouraged to experiment with their own writing in English. The aim is to provide a stimulating and innovative approach to the study of contemporary and modern poetry which may lead to a personal interest in creative writing. Student writing will be encouraged.

Aims

This course aims to introduce students to the main types of poetic form available for study and for personal praxis. It will encourage students to understand the formal aspects of poetry through study and experimenting with the forms in their own writing.

Learning Outcomes

1. To develop an appreciation of some of the major schools and types of poetry written in recent times in English by practitioners in a variety of countries;
2. To understand the purposes and patterns of modern poetry;
3. To develop the skills of close reading and critical analysis of poetic texts;
4. To develop an interest in the process of poetic creation;
5. To develop the skills of writing critically about poetry.

Indicative Content

An Introduction to poetic form
The Villanelle
The Pantoum
The Sonnet
The Ballad
Blank Verse
The Stanza
The Elegy
The Pastoral
Open Forms

Teaching Method

Some formal lectures will be used to provide a framework around which individual texts will cohere for discussion. The primary teaching mode, however, will be experiential with the students providing close readings of chosen texts during the class. It is hoped that additional workshops in writing poetry will be created in addition to formal class time.

In addition, use is made of the various poetry websites that exist in Hong Kong and overseas as an indication of what local schools, poetry enthusiasts and public broadcast companies can offer as learning tools.

A magazine of literature in English will be one of the products of this course.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

Students' progress towards the learning outcomes outlined above will be measured by continuous assessments on the students' engagement with the seminars, tutorial discussions, readings, presentations, and written assignments.

Continuous assessment will consist of the following:

1. A detailed diary/ workbook charting the student's engagement with the poetry studied;
2. A term paper on one aspect of the poetry studied;
3. A recording of the student reading out poems we have studied and his/ her own poetry;
4. A piece of literary analysis of an unseen poem in-class.

Assessment

Continuous assessment: 100%

Required Readings

Strand, Mark and Boland, Eavan, eds., *The Making of a Poem: A Norton Anthology of Poetic Forms*, New York: Norton & Co., 2001.

Supplementary Readings

Drury, John, *The Poetry Dictionary*. Cincinnati, OH: Story Press, 1995.

Exploring Poetry, [interactive multimedia] Detroit, Mich.: Gale, 1997.

Kennedy, X.J., *An Introduction to Poetry*, 9th edition. New York: Longman, 1998.

McDowell, Robert, *Poetry after Modernism*, Brownsville, OR: Story Line Press, 1998.

McRae, John, *The Language of Poetry*. London: Routledge, 1998.

Oliver, Mary, *A Poetry Handbook*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace & Co., 1994.

Padgett, Ron, ed., *Handbook of Poetic Forms*, New York: Teachers and Writers Collaborative, 1987.

Various poetry websites in Hong Kong and overseas.