

**Carleton University
Fall 2015
Department of English**

ENGL 3601A: 20th Century Poetry

Prerequisite(s): 1.0 credit in ENGL at the 1000 level and third-year standing or permission of the department

Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:35pm – 3:55pm
Location: *Please confirm location on Carleton Central*

Dr. Collett Tracey
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Office: 1910 Dunton Tower
Office Hours: TBA or by appointment

Overview:

The 20th century saw radical shifts in the ways in which people lived. There were changes in politics, ideologies, social structure, culture, new scientific and technological developments, advances in medicine. The Industrial Revolution saw people moving away from quiet, rural lives to seek work in urban and factory centres; machines replaced people. Added to these shifts, the period was dominated by the first and then second world war -- events that changed the face of the world, and the sense of there being reason to have faith in God, forever.

Humans explored space for the first time, taking their first footsteps on the moon. Mass media, and advances in telecommunications and computer science made knowledge and information available and accessible to an increasingly wider audience. Advancements in medical technology served to increase global life expectancy from 35 to 65 years. At the same time, technological developments fostered warfare to unprecedented levels of destruction, with nuclear weapons providing humankind the means and ability to annihilate itself.

All of these issues can be seen and felt in the poetry of the 20th century -- in the words of such poets as Hopkins, Frost, Yeats, Pound, Williams, Stevens, Sassoon, H.D., Eliot, Owen Thomas, Page, Purdy, Ferlinghetti, Ginsberg, Creeley, Plath, Hughes, Heaney, and many others.

In this course we will consider the ways in which poetry developed during the 20th century. We will become familiar with various poets and their influences, and will engage with their work by reading it aloud and breaking it down in class.

We will also work towards a deeper understanding of how vulnerable and rich our literary heritage is with a view to convincing students of the need to engage with it from a personal as well as academic perspective. This course will include elements of group work, open discussion, critical debate and close textual analysis. Therefore, it will be necessary for you to attend class, having read the text in question, and prepared to offer your thoughts and analysis on it. Class time will be dedicated to developing skills in close reading and critical thinking; acquiring a vocabulary of critical terms for literary analysis; developing research skills; examining the historical, social, and intellectual contexts in which the literary works were produced; discussing and debating ideas and interpretations; and developing strategies for effective essay writing. The seminar emphasizes class discussion, student participation, and the pleasures of academic community.

Required Text: Geddes, Gary. *20th Century Poetry and Poetics*

The Essay:

As a student, you will be encouraged to devise your own essay topic in consultation with me. It should reflect ideas and material relevant to the issues that we will be discussing over the semester. You can base your essay on the works of a particular writer, which might be an in-depth study of a single text or a thematic exploration across more than one text. You are encouraged to be creative in your approach to the essay and to pursue something that is personally meaningful to you.

Grading Criteria:

Grades for term work will be based on insightfulness, originality, focus, organization of ideas, clarity of expression, scholarly rigor, correct use of MLA style, spelling, and grammar.

Grading:

Class Participation & Seminar: 50%; Essay: 50%

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The usual essay rules apply: you are expected to demonstrate a level of engagement and research that goes beyond the content covered in seminars, and the essay must be presented in correct MLA scholarly format (with a consistently used and accurate referencing system and a full, properly formatted bibliography). The essay must be word-processed and paginated, and accompanied by a completed cover sheet.

General Expectations, Course Policies and Classroom Etiquette.

Students are expected to attend all classes, showing up on time and staying for the duration of the class. You are also expected to bring the text assigned for that day's class, having read it and being prepared for discussion. If you do have to miss a class it is your responsibility to get the notes you miss from another student. **I strongly prefer that, unless they are absolutely necessary for note-taking, both cellphones and laptops should be turned off during class.**

Students must be prepared to discuss the texts in a thoughtful manner. Critical reading, writing and analytical skills cannot be learned from books alone. Asking questions about the readings and contributing to class discussions will help you better understand the material, hone your critical and interpretive skills and prepare you well for upper-year classes where participation will account for part of your final grade.

- Attendance will be taken at every class and absences will be noted. Students who miss **4 or more classes per term will not be able to pass the course**, as all course requirements must be fulfilled for successful completion of the course.

- The best way to get in contact with me is by email at ctracey@connect.carleton.ca. I will respond to emails in a timely fashion (usually within 24 hours, though it could be longer on weekends) and especially to those that ask clear, precise and specific questions.

- I am also available to meet with students to discuss any aspect of the course during my office hours, and if you are unable to make it to my office hours, we can reschedule a time to meet that is convenient to both of us.

It is strongly recommended that you take notes on the lectures and discussions, and keep a record of the passages we discuss in class. Writing in the margins of your books and marking off key passages as you read is also a good idea.

Handing In Assignments:

Assignments are due in class on the dates indicated. However, they can be handed in without penalty until 8:00 a.m. the morning after the due date, via the English Department's drop box, located on the 18th floor of Dunton Tower. Please do not slip the assignment under my office door.

Emailed or faxed assignments are not acceptable and will not be marked.

Keep a back-up copy of every assignment you hand in as an insurance policy in the unlikely event that your essay is misplaced.

Late Penalty:

Deadlines must be met. Late essays are not normally accepted (for many reasons, not the least of which is that it is inherently unfair to those who do work hard to meet deadlines). If you have a valid reason for missing a deadline, and if I know in advance, your essay may be accepted. Except in rare cases for which corroborating documentation can be provided (such as a medical emergency or the death of an immediate family member), assignments which are accepted and handed in after the due date will be penalized by 1/3 of a letter grade per day. For example, a B+ essay due on Monday but handed in on Tuesday afternoon would drop to a B. If it wasn't handed in until Wednesday it would receive a B-, etc. Saturday and Sunday count as 1 day each, so if you find yourself in the position of finishing up your late essay on Saturday afternoon and don't want to lose 1/3 of a grade for Sunday too, email me the completed assignment immediately and submit an identical hard copy to the drop box on Monday.

Extensions:

Requests for extension may be granted in some instances, but only for compelling reasons. Any such request must be made in writing or in person no later than 48 hours prior to the due date of the assignment.

Requests for "retroactive" extensions (i.e. requests made on or after the due date of the essay) will not be considered.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism means passing off someone else's words or ideas as your own or submitting the same work in two different academic contexts (self-plagiarism). The consequences of plagiarism are severe and are issued by the Dean and the University Senate. In order to avoid plagiarism, you must correctly attribute the sources of the ideas you pick up from books, the internet, and other people. See the statement on Instructional Offences in the Undergraduate Calendar.

For Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course are encouraged to contact a coordinator at the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities to complete the necessary letters of accommodation. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet and discuss your needs.

For Religious Observance:

Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious observance should make

a formal, written request to their instructors for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks

before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and me. I will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Students who have questions or want to confirm accommodation eligibility of a religious event or practice may refer to the Equity Services website for a list of holy days and

Carleton's Academic Accommodation policies, or may contact an Equity Services Advisor in the Equity Services Department for assistance.

For Pregnancy:

Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a letter of accommodation. The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Note: If one of your assignments is lost, misplaced, or not received by the instructor, you are responsible for having a backup copy that can be submitted immediately upon request.

Course Schedule:

September	3	Course Introduction
	8	Hopkins, "Dover Beach", Williams, "Tract"
	10	e.e. cummings
	15	Pound
	17	Williams
	22	Auden

	24	Frost
	29	Heaney
October	1	Layton
	6	Bishop Ferlinghetti
	8	Bukowski
	13	Ginsberg
	15	Plath
	20	Thomas
	22	Hughes
	27	Fall Break – no class
	29	Fall Break
November	3	Ondaatje
	5	Rich
	10	War Poetry: Owen, Sassoon
	12	Kroetsch
	17	Cohen
	19	Nichol
	24	Thesen
	26	Atwood
December	1	Wallace
	3	Last class – Essay due