

**Carleton University
Department of English
Fall 2016**

ENGL 3007A: Reading Poetry (20th Century)

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

Dr. Collett Tracey

Phone: 520-2600 ext. 2328

Office: 1910 Dunton Tower

Office Hours: TBA or by appointment

Email: collett.tracey@carleton.ca

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*

Grades & Grading:

In-class participation & Seminar: 50%

Paper, due last day of class, 50%

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 System:

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.

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 on a random basis, 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.***

Contact:

The best way to get in contact with me is by email at collett.tracey@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.

Suggestions:

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.

Request for Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows: Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

Religious obligation:

Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the Student Guide.

Pregnancy obligation:

write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the Student Guide.

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

Calendar:

September:	Thursday, 8	Introduction to the course
	Tuesday, 13	Introduction to Modernism and Modernist Poetry
	Thursday, 15	Pratt ("Erosion")
	Tuesday, 20	Pound
	Thursday, 22	Williams
	Tuesday, 27	Frost
	Thursday, 29	e.e. cummings
October:	Tuesday, 4	Roethke
	Thursday, 6	Klein (Montreal trip)
	Tuesday, 11	Birney
	Thursday, 13	Purdy

	Tuesday, 18	Canadian Modernism – Little Mags and the Montreal group (Layton)
	Thursday, 20	Bishop
	Tuesday, 25	Fall Break – no class
	Thursday, 27	Fall Break – no class
November:	Tuesday, 1	The Beats - Ginsberg
	Thursday, 3	Plath
	Tuesday, 8	Hughes
	Thursday, 10	Atwood
	Tuesday, 15	Heaney
	Thursday, 17	Ondaatje
	Tuesday, 22	The Four Horsemen - bpNichol
	Thursday, 24	Thesen
	Tuesday, 29	Wallace
December:	Thursday, 1	Cohen
	Tuesday, 6	Favourite Poems
	Thursday, 8	Last day of class. Review. Paper Due