

B.A. (Honours) in Contemporary English Studies

Course Title	: Contemporary Poetry as Text and Experience
Course Code	: ENG3374
Recommended Study Year	: 3 rd or 4 th Year
No. of Credits/Term	: 3
Mode of Tuition	: Lecture-tutorial mode
Class Contact Hours	: 2-hour lecture per week 1-hour tutorial per week
Category	: Discipline Elective
Prerequisite(s)	: Nil
Co-requisite(s)	: Nil
Exclusion(s)	: Nil
Exemption Requirement(s)	: Nil

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

On completion of this course participants will have:

1. demonstrated their knowledge of some of the major schools and types of poetry written in recent times in English by practitioners in a variety of countries;
2. shown awareness of the purposes and patterns of modern poetry;
3. applied the skills of close reading and critical analysis to poetic texts;
4. gained insight into the process of poetic creation and have appraised their own work;
5. enhanced their skills in writing critically about poetry.

Indicative Contents

- 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.

No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcome
1.	Detailed diary/ workbook	1 – 5
2.	Term paper	1 – 5
3.	Recording	1 – 4
4.	Literary analysis	1 – 4

Assessment

Continuous assessment: 100%

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.

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.

Important Notes:

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
- (2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
- (3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
- (4) To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.