

Introduction to Poetry (ENGL-120DO)
Summer 2022 (rough draft)
Asynchronous Section

Instructor: Bruce Walsh
bwalsh@messiah.edu

Zoom Office Hours: TBA

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Identify terminology and traditions of poetry, as well as methods of creation
- Recognize poetry's capacity to provoke thought, grow the imagination and deepen students' understanding of what it means to be human.
- Analyze significant works of poetry.
- Articulate the relationship of poetry texts to students' personal worlds.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Song of Myself, Walt Whitman

American Primitive, Mary Oliver

Night Sky With Exit Wounds, Ocean Vuong

Why Poetry?, Matthew Zapruder

Six American Poets: An Anthology, edited by Joel Connaroe

GRADING

Tasks and "Five Point" Assignments: 50%

As students progress through the course, they will view and comment on lectures, and complete mini-assignments, which will comprise half of their final grade.

Midterm and Final Assignments: 50%

Students will demonstrate their close reading of two novels by writing two newspaper or blog-style reviews, producing podcasts, or both. (This will be thoroughly explained in class.)

The upshot is that there are two significant assignments: One will be due in Midterms season, the other during finals. (Again, these dates will be discussed and finalized in class.)

RULES ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Don't plagiarize.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

Initial weekly estimate:

May 16: *American Primitive*

May 23: *Night Sky With Exit Wounds*

May 30: *Why Poetry?*

June 6: *Song of Myself*

June 13: *Six American Poets*

June 20: *Six American Poets*

IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY-WIDE CLASSROOM RULES

Course materials cannot be used elsewhere

The materials in this Messiah University course are only for the use of students enrolled in this course for purposes associated with this course and may not be further disseminated.

Attendance and Participation

Class attendance is important to student learning and hence central to Messiah University's educational mission; therefore, regular class attendance is expected. While individual class attendance policies are left to the discretion of the instructor or academic department, residential and commuter students are expected to attend class in-person under regular attendance policies. Only the limited number of students who have been approved as "fully remote" (and are listed as such in SCC), or are ill or in quarantine, may attend remotely. Remote students are expected to fully engage in all class sessions; in most cases, this means being prepared to participate in class with audio and video capacity.

Health and Safety

Each person present on campus is required to follow university policies for health and safety. While we are largely back to normal this year, students should watch for campus announcements that communicate health and safety expectations on campus. In addition, a spirit of respect, understanding, and care for one another is expected in the classroom.

Classrooms have been configured to maintain 3-feet of physical distancing where feasible. Hence, neither instructors nor students are to change the physical configuration of the classroom. Also, students will have and are expected to maintain assigned seating due to the potential need for future contact tracing.

FERPA

This course may be recorded and shared with students registered for this course. Classes may be conducted using technology selected by your instructor which may use your computer's webcam or other technologies to communicate, monitor, and/or record classes,

class activities, and assessments. Recordings, if posted, will only be posted on a secure, limited access site. Students should treat these recordings with care and not re-share or post beyond this course.

Potential Course Modifications

This syllabus represents diligent planning based on knowledge at the beginning of the fall semester. Further adaptations may be required. In the event it is necessary to update academic policies, students will be provided with as much notice as possible regarding any subsequent course changes.

INSTRUCTOR BIO

Since receiving his MFA in playwriting from Indiana University Bloomington in 2017, Bruce Walsh's plays have been produced around the country, winning the Heideman Award, the Gary Garrison National Ten Minute Play Award, and the Maxim Mazumdar New Play Competition. Before attending IU, he was a longtime arts reporter and editor for the Philadelphia Metro and City Paper, where he wrote over a thousand features on the many talented, visionary artists of the Philadelphia region. He currently teaches literature and creative writing at Messiah University, and has previously taught at IU and Millersville University.