Note on the Reading Assignments. Before you come to class, read and re-read carefully the assigned poems for that date. During the class period prior to a reading assignment, I may designate a poem or two (or some aspect of all of the poems) for special attention.

Unless otherwise indicated, the page numbers listed on the Reading Schedule refer to The Norton Anthology of Poetry (5th edition). Please read the very short biographical sketches about each of the day's assigned poets as well (see pages 2075-2139 in the Norton.) If I've assigned a selection from Stephen Adams's Poetic Designs or the essays on "Syntax" and "Versification" in the Norton, I would encourage you to read those pages as well. If a poem has a links to The Norton Anthology of Poetry Workshop Online (designated by a ▲ below), you will not want to miss a look at those online materials.

Note on the Terms. Please learn the terms listed for each daily assignment. Please refer to your syllabus for a list of books and websites where you can find those terms defined. As I said on the first day of class, I want you to learn terms so you have a language for talking about what you see in poems. Still, don't get hung-up on the terms. Get hung-up on the poems.

Readings and Assignments Schedule

Aug 22M Introductions

Aug 24W How do poems mean?


Assignment to bring to class: Read each of the poems carefully, and choose one. Write out its lines as if they were prose sentences. Make paragraphs where you think there should be paragraphs. Read this "prose" to yourself, and bring it to class. You may type or hand-write this assignment.

Terms: poetry, verse, lyric, punctuation, verse paragraph

Aug 26F Do poems always mean something?

Assignment: Read each of these poems carefully. Choose one and explain what it says or what it means in about a paragraph. Then choose one of the other poems, one that you do not understand, and write a paragraph that talks about the poem in an interesting, observant way without explaining the meaning of the poem. You may type or hand-write this assignment.

Terms: indeterminacy, nonsense verse

Aug 26 F Poetry Reading: Creative Writing Faculty, Welcome Back Reading
3:30 p.m., Union 212

Aug 29M Speakers and Personas


Assignment: Make a list that briefly describes the speaker of each of these poems. Then choose one of the poems and write a more detailed (one-paragraph long) character analysis of the speaker and his/her/their/its situation.

Terms: persona, speaker, poet, epic poetry, dramatic poetry, dialogue, monologue, dramatic monologue

Aug 31W Tone


Assignment: Select one of today's poems and write a paragraph that describes the speaker's attitude or feelings toward the subject of the poem. What words in the poem suggest or convey those feelings? Is there anything complex or complicated about this attitude or the emotions in the poem? If so, how would you describe that complexity?

Terms: tone, voice, topic, subject, theme

Sept 2 F Words (and why poems mean more than they say)

Assignment: Choose five words from the poems scheduled for today (I recommend choosing words that stick out.) Look up each word in the dictionary (I recommend using the Oxford English Dictionary). For each word, answer the following questions: How would it change the poem to change this word (leave it out, use a phrase or synonym in its place, etc.)? What does this word suggest that other, substitute words might not?

Terms: connotation, denotation, lexis, diction (formal/elevated, informal/colloquial, abstract, concrete), ambiguity

Sept 5 M Labor Day. No Class.

Sept 7 W Syntax and Poetic Line


Assignment: 1) Choose a sentence from one of the poems above and re-write it, in prose, in a way that alters or rearranges the syntax; make sure the rewritten sentence is a grammatically complete, clear, and correct sentence. 2) Rewrite one of the poems to change its line length—short to long, long to short, fixed length to varied, or whatever you invent; make sure your rewritten verse is still a poem.

Terms: line, syntax

Sept 9 F Meter 1


Assignment: 1) Listen carefully to some conversations this week. See if you can't detect some phrases, lines, sentences in ordinary speech that approximate iambic pentameter ("I can't believe I have a test today," for example). Write down two or three of these overheard lines and bring them to class. 2) Identify a few lines of iambic pentameter from today's reading. Find a few others that are not iambic pentameter. How would you describe those lines that aren't iambic pentameter?

Terms: rhythm, meter, prosody, scansion, accent, accentual meter, syllabic meter, accentual-syllabic meter, stress or accent, unstressed or slack syllable,
foot, iamb, substitution and variation, monometer, dimeter, trimeter, tetrameter, pentameter, hexameter or alexandrine, heptameter or fourteeners, octameter

Sept 12 M  Meter 2


Assignment: To scan a poem is to mark or identify its pattern of stressed (or emphasized) and unstressed syllables. Select several lines from some of the poems above. Try scanning them. Bring your efforts to class.

Terms: trochee, anapest, dactyl, spondee, pyrrhic, end-stopped line, run-on line, enjambment, caesura, quantitative meter

Sept 14 W  Blank Verse and Free Verse


Terms: blank verse, open form, free verse, vers libre, anaphora, epistrophe, prose poem, visual poetry, concrete poetry, shaped poetry, sound poetry

Sept 15 Th  Poetry Reading: Gary Gildner
4:00 p.m., Union 212

Sept 16 F  Rhyme


Terms: rhyme, rhyme scheme, end rhyme, internal rhyme, leonine rhyme, masculine rhyme, feminine rhyme, exact or perfect rhyme, slant or near rhyme, imperfect rhyme, pararhyme, wrenched rhyme, light verse
Sept 19 M  **Alliteration, Assonance, Onomatopoeia**


*Assignment:* Explication Paper Due.

*Terms:* alliteration, initial rhyme, assonance, onomatopoeia, sprung rhythm, sound, sound poetry

Sept 21 W  **Songs**


*Terms:* hymn, blues, carol, spiritual, chant, prayer, lament, music and poetry refrain, couplet, heroic couplet, tercet, common meter, quatrain

Sept 23 F  **Ballads**


*Terms:* stanza, ballad, ballad stanza, elegiac rhyme royal, ottava rima, Spenserian stanza, limerick

Sept 26 M  **Sonnets**


*Assignment:* *Radi os* Assignment Due.

*Terms:* sonnet, English sonnet or Shakespearean sonnet, Italian sonnet or Petrarchan sonnet, octave, sestet, turn, sonnet sequence, closure, form
Sept 28 W  Villanelles, Rondels, and Sestinas


*Terms:* villanelle, sestina, envoy or envoi, rondel, composite forms, fixed forms

Sept 30 F  Elegies and Odes


*Terms:* elegy, ode, Pindaric ode, Horatian ode

Oct 3 M  Fall Break. No Class.

Oct 5 W  Imagery


*Terms:* image, imagery, visual imagery, auditory imagery, tactile imagery, synesthesia, haiku, texture

Oct 7 F  Figures of Speech


*Assignment:* Formal Paper #1: Paper on Form Due.

*Terms:* rhetoric, figure, figurative language, scheme, trope, parallelism, antithesis, chiasmus, repetition, amplification, periphrasis or circumlocution, catalogue, inversion or anastrophe, coinage or neologism, antanaclasis, paronomasia, pun, double entendre
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<td>Oct 17 M</td>
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Selected Upcoming Dates

Oct 19 W  Anne Bradstreet/Phillis Wheatley

Oct 20 Th  Reading: Richard Thomas, "Play on Words"
            7:30 p.m., McCain [remember: tickets cost $15]

Oct 21 F  Walt Whitman/Langston Hughes

Oct 24-Nov 2  Presentations

Nov 4  Ted Kooser

Nov 4 F  Poetry Reading: Ted Kooser
           7:00 p.m., Union Little Theater [required event]

Nov 2-18  Presentations

Nov 7 M  Poetry Reading: Moya Cannon
           3:00 p.m., Public Library Auditorium

Nov 21 M  Robert Lowell

Nov 23-25  Thanksgiving Break. No Class

Nov 28 M  John Berryman

Nov 30 W  Sylvia Plath/Anne Sexton
            Paper #2 Due

Dec 2-7  Susan Hahn, Confession

Dec 9 F  Conclusions

Dec 14 W  Final Examination, 11:50-1:40