

MEJ204S (Fall 2008) Mathematics and Poetry: Poetry Syllabus

Time: W6-9
Location: UC163
Instructor: Professor Woodland
Office: JH 619
Phone: 416-946-3456
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Office Hours: Friday 10-12, or by appointment

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Reading Package

The reading package contains all the poems listed in the class schedule, and must be purchased at **Alicos Copy, 203A College St.** (S.E. corner of College and Beverley, (416-599-2342).

2. Stephen Adams, *Poetic Designs: An Introduction to Verse Forms and Figures of Speech*

This is a handbook of poetic terminology and verse forms. It must be purchased at available at **Bob Miller Book Room, 180 Bloor St. W,** 416- 922-3557.

MARKING SCHEME: Poetry Section

Three Assignments	30% (10% each)
Term Test	15%
Participation	5%

NOTE ON ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments must be handed in on the date indicated, and should neither greatly exceed nor fall far short of the required length. Late essays will be penalized at a rate of 2% per day late. The late penalty may be waived if illness is a factor, but the student is required to present a doctor's certificate in such cases. Extensions will be granted only if requested in advance. Late papers must be submitted to me in person, or to the English Department secretary (Room 611, JHB), who will stamp the date of submission on the paper. **I WILL NOT GRADE PAPERS THAT HAVE BEEN SLIPPED UNDER MY DOOR.**

Assignments must be typed (double-spaced). If you write on a computer, please **back up** your work as you write, and keep your back-up copies. You should also print your drafts as you write. If you do not write on a computer, please xerox your work before you submit it. I have never lost an essay, but there's a first time for everything.

SCHEDULE

- Sept. 10 **Introduction**
- Sept. 17 **Shakespeare:** Sonnets 73, 19, and 12
Adams: “Meter and Rhythm” (pp. 1-36), “Stanza and Form” (pp. 71-76), “The Sonnet” (pp. 88-92)
- Sept. 24 **Shakespeare:** Sonnets 1, 2, 3 and 20
- Oct. 1 **Shakespeare:** Sonnet 30; Sonnet 129
Adams: “Rhetoric and Figure” (pp. 105-108), “The Tropes” (pp. 132-147)
- Oct. 8 **Sir Philip Sidney,** *Astrophil and Stella*: Sonnets 52 and 71; **Edmund Spenser:** *Amoretti*: Sonnet 15; **Shakespeare:** Sonnet 130
- Oct. 15 **The Villanelle**
Edwin Arlington Robinson: “The House on the Hill”; **Dylan Thomas:** “Do Not Go Gentle”; **Theodore Roethke:** “The Waking”; **Elizabeth Bishop:** “One Art”; **James Merrill:** “Dead Center”
First Assignment Due
- Oct. 22 **The Sestina**
Elizabeth Bishop: “Sestina”; **W. H. Auden:** “Hearing of harvests...”; **John Ashbery:** “The Painter,” “Faust”
- Oct. 29 **The Canzone**
W. H. Auden: “Canzone”; **James Merrill:** “Samos”
- Nov. 5 **e. e. cummings**
“next of course to god America i...”; “what a proud dreamhorse...”; “anyone lived in a pretty how town...”; “one’s not half two”; “what freedom’s not some under’s mere above..”
Second Assignment Due
- Nov. 12 **Mark Strand:** “The Remains,” “Giving Myself Up,” “My Life by Somebody Else,” * “The Untelling”
- Nov. 19 **Paul Muldoon:** “The Mixed Marriage,” “Mules,” “The Geography Lesson,” “The Boundary Commission,” * “The Mudroom”
- Nov. 26 **Jorie Graham:** “Self-Portrait as the Gesture Between Them,” “Self-Portrait as Hurry and Delay”
Third Assignment Due
- Dec. 3 **Term Test**

* This poem will be the main topic of discussion in class; the other poems should be read for explanatory context.