LIT 227: Great Poems of the English Language:
Modern and Contemporary

Spring 2014–2015; Thurs. 7:00 - 8:50 pm
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* It is recommended that you read the headnotes to the poets, which give biographical, cultural, and stylistic information, though this is not required. Enjoy the poems!

**Week 1:** The Ache of the Modern: Hardy and Hopkins

*(4/2)*

Thomas Hardy: Hap; Neutral Tones; I Look into My Glass; In Tenebris; The Darkling Thrush; A Broken Appointment; The Self-Unseeing; Bereft; Shut Out That Moon; New Year’s Eve; The Convergence of the Twain; I Found her Out There; The Voice; A Poet; In the Moonlight; The Oxen; For Life I had Never Cared Greatly; I Looked Up from my Writing; Going and Staying; Afterwards; He Never Expected Much

Gerard Manley Hopkins (101–108): God’s Grandeur; As Kingfishers Catch Fire; Spring; The Windhover; Pied Beauty; Felix Randal; I Wake and Feel the Fell of Dark, Not Day; No Worst, There is None; Spring and Fall; Carrion Comfort; Thou Art Indeed Just, Lord, If I Contend

**Week 2:** The Making of Irish Modernism: W. B. Yeats

*(4/9)*

To the Rose Upon the Rood of Time; The Lake Isle of Innisfree; The Sorrow of Love; When You are Old; Who Goes with Fergus; To Ireland in the Coming Times; The Hosting of the Sidhe; Cap and Bells; Adam’s Curse; No Second Troy; The Fascination of What’s Difficult; A Coat; September 1913; The Magi; Easter, 1916; The Wild Swans at Coole; In Memory of Major Robert Gregory; An Irish Airman Forsees his Death

The Second Coming; A Prayer for My Daughter; Leda and the Swan; The Tower; Sailing to Byzantium; Among School Children; In Memory of Eva Gore-Booth; A Dialogue of Self and Soul; Byzantium; Crazy Jane Talks with the Bishop; Vacillation; The Gyres; Lapis Lazuli; An Acre of Grass; Long-Legged Fly; Under Ben Bulben; The Circus Animals’ Desertion

**Week 3:** American Romanticism: Whitman and Dickinson

*(4/16)*

Walt Whitman: *Song of Myself,* Crossing Brooklyn Ferry; I Saw in Louisiana a Live Oak Growing; When Lilacs last in the Dooryard Bloomed

Emily Dickinson Nos. 49, 214, 249, 258, 280, 303, 328, 341, 435, 465, 585, 632, 657, 712, 754, 986, 1129, 1732
Week 4: **American Modernism: Frost and Stevens**

(4/23) **Robert Frost**: Mending Wall; After Apple-Picking; The Wood-Pile; The Road Not Taken; An Old Man's Winter Night; The Oven Bird; Birches; Putting in the Seed; Fire and Ice; Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening; For Once, Then, Something; Tree at My Window; Two Tramps in Mud Time

**Wallace Stevens**: Sunday Morning; Peter Quince at the Clavier; Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird; Anecdote of the Jar; The Snow Man; Bantams in Pine-Woods; The Emperor of Ice Cream; The Idea of Order at Key West; The Man with the Blue Guitar (I, XXII)

Week 5: **Transatlantic Modernism: Eliot and Auden**

(4/30) **T. S. Eliot**: The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock; Whispers of Immortality; Sweeney Among the Nightingales; Gerontion; from *The Waste Land* (sections I and II; last 3 sections optional)

**W.H. Auden**: The Wanderer; Who’s Who; As I Walked out One Evening; Musée des Beaux Arts; Epitaph on a Tyrant; In Memory of W. B. Yeats; September 1, 1930; In Memory of Sigmund Freud; In Praise of Limestone

Week 6: **Imagism: William Carlos Williams, Ezra Pound, H.D.**

(5/7) **Ezra Pound**: Portrait d'une Femme; A Pact; The Rest; The River-Merchant’s Wife; In a Station in the Metro; The Temperaments; Hugh Selwyn Mauberley

**William Carlos Williams**: Tract; Queen-Ann's-Lace; The Widow’s Lament in Springtime; The Great Figure; Spring and All; The Red Wheelbarrow; Portrait of a Lady; This is Just to Say; Flowers by the Sea; The Yachts; The Young Housewife; The Dance; Burning the Christmas Greens

**H.D. (Hilda Doolittle)**: Sea Rose; Garden; Helen; Fragment 68; Epitaph

Week 7: **Sappho's Sisters: Elizabeth Bishop and Adrienne Rich**

(5/14) **Elizabeth Bishop**: The Man-Moth; The Monument; The Fish; At the Fishhouses; The Armadillo; In the Waiting Room; One Art

**Adrienne Rich**: Diving into the Wreck; Power; *Twenty-One Love Poems*

Week 8: **Poetry and Madness: Robert Lowell, Sylvia Plath, Anne Sexton**

(5/21) **Robert Lowell**: Memories of West Street and Lepke; To Speak of the Woe that is in Marriage; Skunk Hour; For the Union Dead; Dolphin; Epilogue
Anne Sexton: Her Kind; The Truth the Dead Know; All My Pretty Ones; The Starry Night; How We Danced

Sylvia Plath: The Colossus; Tulips; Blackberrying; Elm; Daddy; Fever 103; Poppies in October; Ariel; Lady Lazarus

Week 9: Harlem Renaissance and Poets of Color

(5/28) Jean Toomer: Her Lips are Copper Wire; Reapers; November Cotton Flower; Portrait in Georgia; Georgia Dusk

Langston Hughes: The Negro Speaks of Rivers; The Weary Blues; Sylvester’s Dying Bed; Morning After; Madam’s Past History

Gwendolyn Brooks: A Song in the Front Yard; Sadie and Maud; Of Dewitt Williams; The Vacant Lot; The Blackstone Rangers; The Boy Died in My Alley

Derek Walcott: A Far Cry from Africa; The Fortunate Traveller; Omeros (1.1.1, 1.3.3, 3.25.2–3)

Week 10: The Indomitable Irishry: Heaney, Muldoon, Boland

(6/4) Seamus Heaney: Digging; Death of a Naturalist; Requiem for the Croppies; Bogland; Bog Queen; The Grauballe Man; Punishment; The Strand at Lough Beg;

Paul Muldoon: Hedgehog; Why Brownlee Left; Meeting the British

Eavan Boland: Anorexic; Night Feed; Mise Eire; The Women; Fond Memory; The Pomegranate

Grading Requirements:

Students taking the class for credit must attend all classes.

Students taking the class for a letter grade will write a 12 pp. paper on a poem of their choice.