

**University of Jordan**  
**Department of English Language and Literature**  
**Faculty of Foreign Languages**  
**Fall 2015/2016**  
**Modern English & American Poetry**

**Course Code: 2201711**

**Instructor: Dr. Yousef Awad**

**Office Hours: Thursday, 16:00 – 17:00 or by an appointment**

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**Course Description:**

This course offers a detailed analysis of the works of the most prominent poets in the 20<sup>th</sup> century starting from Hardy, Yeats, Frost, Eliot, Pound and the poets of World War I. Poets of the 30's and 40's of the 20<sup>th</sup> century are next. The course ends up with the contemporary poets as Plath, Larkin, Heaney, Ginsberg, Ashbery and others. The course also concentrates on the formal and linguistic aspects of poetry on the one hand, and its reflection of the social and ideological issues, on the other hand.

**Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs):**

Successful completion of the course should lead to the following outcomes:

**A. Knowledge and Understanding:** Student is expected to

1. Be able to recognize the different literary movements and their influences on modern poetry;
2. Be able to analyze poems and discuss their elements;
3. Be able to identify and discuss major poets and their works.
5. Be able to discuss the socioeconomic, political and cultural contexts of the texts.

**B. Intellectual Analytical and Cognitive Skills:** Student is expected to

1. Be able to use appropriate critical and analytical skills when dealing with works of literature
2. Be able to identify the various literary devices (symbolic and metaphorical language) used in literary texts
3. Read texts critically, developing the ability to link various writers and literary movements together, as well as recognizing a sense of continuity and development.

**C. Subject- Specific Skills:** Student is expected to

1. Use appropriate analytical and critical skills when reading works of literature
2. Understand the style, the content and the general significance of literary texts.

**D. Transferable Key Skills:** Student is expected to

1. Display critical and analytical skills in their encounter with various poems.
2. Read and appreciate better.
3. Develop better cross-cultural communication skills.

**Teaching Approach:**

Teaching will be conducted mainly through seminar discussion. It is expected that everyone will participate fully. There will be short introductory lectures throughout the semester in order to provide the social, historical, literary and biographical background to each text.

**Evaluation:**

Midterm: 30%; Class participation: 10%; Term paper / Recitation / Presentations: 20%; Final: 40%.

**Course Outline:**

- Week 1 (1/10/2015): Modernist poetry in history  
Schools, movements, manifestoes
- Week 2 (8/10/2015): The poetics of modernism  
The non-modernist modern
- Week 3 (15/10/2015): War Poetry + Ezra Pound
- Week 4 (22/10/2015): Public Holiday
- Week 5 (29/10/2015): Ezra Pound + T.S. Eliot
- Week 6 (5/11/2015): T.S. Eliot
- Week 7 (12/11/2015): William Butler Yeats
- Week 8 (19/11/2015): William Carlos Williams, Wallace Stevens and Marianne Moore
- Week 9 (26/11/2015): Mina Loy and H. D.
- Week 10 (3/12/2015): **Midterm Exam**
- Week 11 (10/12/2015): The poetry of the Harlem Renaissance, Sylvia Plath & Ted Hughes
- Week 12 (17/12/2015): Robert Lowell, Allen Ginsberg & Philip Larkin
- Week 13 (24/12/2015): Public Holiday
- Week 14 (31/12/2015): Seamus Heaney, John Ashbery & Derek Walcott
- Week 15 (14/1/2016): **Final Exam**

**Poems**

<b>War Poetry</b>
- <b>Rupert Brooke:</b> "The Soldier"
- <b>Siegfried Sassoon:</b> "They"
- <b>Wilfred Owen:</b> "Anthem for Doomed Youth" & "Dulce et Decorum Est"
<b>Ezra Pound:</b> <i>Hugh Selwyn Mauberley</i>
<b>T. S. Eliot:</b> <i>The Waste Land</i> & "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"
<b>W. B. Yeats:</b> "Easter, 1916", "The Second Coming", "Sailing to Byzantium" & "Byzantium"
<b>William Carlos Williams:</b> "The Widow's Lament in Springtime", "The Crowd at the Ball Game", "The Red Wheelbarrow" & "Nantucket"
<b>Wallace Stevens:</b> "A Postcard from the Volcano" and "The Idea of Order at Key West"
<b>Marianne Moore:</b> "The Fish" and "The Mind is an Enchanting Thing"
<b>Mina Loy:</b> "Apology of Genius" and "Moreover, the Moon"
<b>H. D.:</b> "Garden", "Orchard" and "Oread"
<b>Harlem Renaissance</b>
- <b>Langston Hughes:</b> "Song for a Dark Girl", "The Negro Speaks of Rivers", "Dreams" and "Dream Variations"
- <b>Gwendolyn Brooks:</b> "The Mother" and "The Ballad of Rudolph Reed"
<b>Sylvia Plath:</b> "Daddy" and "Lady Lazarus"
<b>Ted Hughes:</b> "The Thought Fox" and "The Horses"
<b>Robert Lowell:</b> "For the Union Dead" and "Waking in the Blue"
<b>Allen Ginsberg:</b> "America" and "A Supermarket in California"
<b>Philip Larkin:</b> "Church Going" and "Next, Please"
<b>Seamus Heaney:</b> "Bogland" and "Digging"
<b>John Ashbery:</b> "Mixed Feelings" and "Paradoxes and Oxymorons"
<b>Derek Walcott:</b> "Goats and Monkeys" and "Codicil"

**Bibliography:**

- Baym, Nina, et al. (eds.). *The Norton Anthology of American Literature: 1914-1945* (Vol. D), 8<sup>th</sup> ed. (New York & London: Norton & Company, 2012).
- Baym, Nina, et al. (eds.). *The Norton Anthology of American Literature: Literature since 1945* (Vol. E), 8<sup>th</sup> ed. (New York & London: Norton & Company, 2012).
- Corcoran, Neil. *The Cambridge Companion to Twentieth-Century English Poetry* (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2008).
- Davis, Alex & Jenkins, Lee M. (eds.) *The Cambridge Companion to Modernist Poetry* (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2007).
- Greenblatt, Stephen, et al. (eds.). *The Norton Anthology of English Literature: The Twentieth Century and After* (Vol. F), 9<sup>th</sup> ed. (New York & London: Norton & Company, 2012).
- Howarth, Peter. *The Cambridge Introduction to Modernist Poetry* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012).
- Hoover, Paul. *Postmodern American Poetry: A Norton Anthology* (New York & London: W. W. Norton & Company, 1994).
- McClatchy, J. D. (ed.). *The Vintage Book of Contemporary American Poetry* (New York: Vintage Books, 2003).
- Paterson, Don & Simic, Charles. *New British Poetry* (Saint Paul, MN: Graywolf Press, 2004).
- Roberts, Neil (ed.). *A Companion to Twentieth-Century Poetry* (Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing Ltd, 2003).
- Whitworth, Michael H. *Reading Modernist Poetry* (Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing Ltd, 2010).