

Webster University

Course Syllabus

COMM 5390.01
COURSE NUMBER and SECTION

Dr. Marlene Ann Birkman
INSTRUCTOR

Communications Seminars:
Poetry on the Planet
COURSE TITLE

TERM: Fall 1, 2003

SITE: 50

a. Course Description: (Student Focus, rationale, scope, prerequisites)

This exploration will uncover poetry on our planet. Collectively and individually, participants will study and search for poems in public places and private spaces suitable for K-12 classrooms. Poems will be pursued and performed. A poetry celebration will conclude the journey. "What place would you advise me to visit now?" He asked. "The planet Earth," replied the geographer. "It has a good reputation." Antoine De Saint Exupery

a. Learning Outcomes: (Goals, objectives, outcomes, etc.)

**"You'll find poetry nowhere unless you bring some of it with you."
Joseph Joubert**

Student will:

- read aloud and respond to as many poems as that are able.
- share their responses from the words of the poems.
- bring ideas, questions, materials, to the seminar that will provoke imaginative, thoughtful discussion of the experiences that poems offer.
- identify and explore the elements and forms of poetry in order to enjoy it and feel its power.
- play with language.
- search for poems from many countries.

Expectations:

Students will attend all classes. If an emergency absence occurs, please call me.

Students will touch as many poetry collections as possible in bookstores and in school, city and county libraries. Three libraries and three bookstores will be visited.

Students will actively prepare for and participate in seminar discussions. Students will arrive at initial answers to the questions posed in class through a close reading of all class assignments.

Students will render and document poems for the class. (Copy will bibliographic citation)

Students will prepare a poetry collection for young people according to the Poetry Collection Checklist.

The title collection should include at least 30 poems (typed or handwritten) selected from at least 25 sources published since 1970. Two of the anthologies should have a 2000-2001 copyright. The collection should offer a range of poems showing many subjects, forms, and poets from around the planet.

The typed preface of the collection should include a detailed, professional discussion of at least four pages of the literary criteria used in selecting the poetry for a specific audience. (Please include the actual number of poems and sources in the preface.) A developed statement of the feeling you want to convey to young people about poetry is essential. Documented quotations from class, handouts and texts are expected.

The final part of the collection is a bibliography. Refer to A POETRY BIBLIOGRAPHY for an appropriate format. Page number and poet must be indicated.

The form of the collection should be as IMAGINATIVE AND ENTICING as it can be. Remember that “form follows function.” Perhaps, pages will not be the desired medium.

The following expectation will count toward your credit or grade:

Responses	50%
Poetry Collection	50%

In order to receive credit, all work must be submitted on due dates according to described guidelines. If you have any questions, please call me 968-7094. I hope each of you will stop in my office Webster Hall 238 at least once.

Marlene Ann Birkman

Schedule of required readings, class preparations and assignments, lectures, discussions, student presentations, and exams:

August 22

WEEK 1: Introductions, Definitions, Objectives, Expectations: Soaring into Orbit; What was poetry like for young people before 1970? Why poetry?

August 29

WEEK 2: **Rotation and Revolution**
Poetry since 1970-How has it changed?
Bring five anthologies to share.
Read Heard's books. Bring a one-page summary and a one page typed one of personal, professional response. Begin summary/response paper with a bibliographic entry. Use documented quotations and documented paraphrasing in the summary.
Milosz: Introduction 1-9 Epiphany

Sept. 5

WEEK 3: Landing on Text
Milosz: Nature
Bring five Native American Collections
AUTUMN: FROST COUNTRY

Sept. 12

WEEK 4: Guest: Dr. Brian Kennelly
Poetry in Public Places
Read: Milosz: The Secret of a Thing
Bring five collections

Sept. 19

WEEK 5: Read Milosz: Travel, Places
Poetry Summary/Response Articles: Language Arts or English Journal

Sept. 26

WEEK 6: Read Milosz: The Moment, People Among People
David

Oct. 3

WEEK 7: Continental Search Reports
Milosz: Women's Skin, Situations

Oct. 10

WEEK 8: Cosmic Celebration
Poetry Collection Due
Nonattachment, History

Resources:

Text Used:

Heard, G. Awakening the Heart: Exploring Poetry in Elementary and Middle School. Portsmouth, New Hampshire: Heinemann, 1999.

Heard, G. For the Good of the Sun and Earth: Teaching Poetry. Portsmouth, New Hampshire: Heinemann, 1989.

Milosz, C. (Ed) A Book of Luminous Things: An International Anthology of Poetry. San Diego: Harcourt Brace & Company, 1998.

Handouts

Supplemental Readings: (List and indicate how these are to be used.)

Optional Reading: Koch, K. Making Your On Days: The Pleasures of Reading and Writing Poetry. New York: Scribner, 1998.

Audio Visual/Other:

Speakers
Tape
Videos

Evaluation:

a. Term Paper:

Poetry Search
Book Summary/Response
Poetry Collection

b. Examinations: none

c. Class Participation: yes

d. Class Presentation: yes

- e. **Other- Problems and Exercises:** yes
- 6. **3 Hour Courses: Students taking an 8 week course for 3 credit hours will complete the following additional assignments and/or attend the following additional meetings:**
 - a. **Lab**
 - b. **Curriculum Project-Poetry Collection**
 - c. **Paper(s)**
 - d. **AV Project**
 - e. **Other-Conferences**

7. **Final Projects:**

Final projects/papers will be returned to students in the following manner:

Projects/Papers will be returned to students during the last meeting period.

Students should provide a self-addressed envelope (appropriate size and postage) to the instructor so project/paper can be returned.

Other: (explain)

NOTE: Papers will not be available for pick up from the M.A.T. Office

**This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.
Therefore, regular attendance is required.**