

# CANG 9126 Introduction to English Poetry

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Fall 2021

**Level: C1+**

This course is an introduction to English poetry from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century. Through close readings of selected poems each week, students will gain a broad understanding of the English poetic tradition and develop their literary interpretation skills. In addition to discussing the texts, a portion of class time will be dedicated to writing lessons. Students will be evaluated based on their critical skills and oral and written expression in English.

Students must have C1 proficiency in English to take this class.

All readings will be made available on the course website.

**Requirements:** class participation (15%), midterm paper (20%), oral presentation (20%), final exam (45%)

## Course Schedule

**Week 1:** Introduction

**Week 2:** Extracts from *The Canterbury Tales*, Geoffrey Chaucer

**Week 3:** Extracts from *The Faerie Queene*, Edmund Spenser

**Week 4:** Selected poems, John Donne and William Shakespeare

**Week 5:** Extracts from *Paradise Lost*, John Milton

**Week 6:** Selected poems, William Wordsworth and John Keats  
**Midterm paper due**

*Vacances de la Toussaint*

**Week 7:** Selected poems, Alfred B. Tennyson and Robert Browning

**Week 8:** Selected poems, Emily Dickinson and Walt Whitman

**Week 9:** Selected poems, Elizabeth Bishop and Wallace Stevens

**Week 10:** Presentations

**Week 11:** Final Exam

**Class participation** includes attendance, active listening, regular contributions to class discussion, and a short oral presentation of one of the poets on the syllabus (in our first class, I will assign each student a poet/week).

Your **midterm paper** will be a close reading (explication de texte) of a poem we haven't discussed in class. Not to exceed 4-5 pages double-spaced.

For your **oral presentation**, you will introduce the class to an English poet that is not on the syllabus. You should briefly discuss their life, work, and importance in the English literary tradition, then give an analysis of one of their poems. The presentation should last approximately 10 minutes, with the analysis making up the bulk of it (about 8 minutes). Here are some possible choices:

Isabella Whitney	Thomas Hardy	Langston Hughes
Philip Sidney	Dante Gabriel Rossetti	Jean Toomer
Amelia Lanyer	Christina Rossetti	Gertrude Stein
George Herbert	Matthew Arnold	E.E. Cummings
Alexander Pope	Oscar Wilde	Robert Frost
Samuel Taylor Coleridge	W. B. Yeats	W.H. Auden
Percy Bysshe Shelley	Hart Crane	Gwendolyn Brooks
William Blake	Marianne Moore	Allen Ginsberg
Lord Byron	H.D. (Hilda Doolittle)	Frank O'Hara
Elizabeth Barrett Browning	Ezra Pound	John Ashbery
Gerard Manley Hopkins	T. S. Eliot	Derek Walcott

Your **final exam** will consist of two essays. The first will be thematic and ask you to put 2-3 poets into conversation with each other. The second will be a close reading (explication de texte) of a short poem.