



אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב
הפקולטה למדעי הרוח והחברה

המחלקה לספרויות זרות ובלשנות, תש"פ 2019-20

Name of the course: Introduction to Poetry

Lecturer name: Rachel Wamsley

Course number:

Office hours: Mondays 14.00-16.00

Short course description (5-10 lines) with key words at the end of the paragraph

This course is an introduction to poetry and how to read it. What is this poem about? Who is its speaker? What does the poem mean? *How* does it mean? Seeking answers to these questions is a first step into the complexity and pleasure of poetry. By the end of the course, students will be able to: identify different poetic genres and structures; analyze the effect of a poem's linguistic and formal features; use literary-critical terminology in this analysis; and contextualize a poem both in terms of the poet's moment and our own.

Key words: literature, poetry, poetics

Course requirements:

Attendance required **yes/no**

1. Participation 10%

2. Close Reading 1 20%

3. Close Reading 2 20%

4. Final Paper 50%

[סילבוס מפורט של הקורס \(נושאים, לוח זמנים, ספרות חובה/בחירה וכדומה\)](#)

INTRODUCTION TO POETRY

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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READINGS

Weekly readings will consist of several poems accompanied by relevant critical selection from the "Poetry" section of *The Norton Introduction to Literature*. At the start of each class, students will complete a 3-minute quiz on the critical materials. The first half hour of class will then be dedicated to discussion of the topic of the week (for instance, Theme, Structure, Figurative

Language, and so on) through the lens of the secondary readings. The remaining time will be given to close reading one or two of the assigned poems. All readings will be drawn from *The Norton Introduction to Literature* (Shorter 13th edition).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to attend every class session (unless excused by the instructor ahead of time and in writing), read the assigned texts, take the reading quizzes, and contribute to in-class discussions. If a student misses 2 or more classes without a reasonable cause, s/he may be barred from submitting the final essay (worth 50% of the total grade).

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

This course requires three writing assignments. The two are 1-2 page close readings of a poem of the student's choosing (whether from the course reader or elsewhere, though it may not be a poem we have previously discussed in class). The third and final assignment is a 4-6 page paper analyzing a poem exemplifying any of the genres discussed over the course of the semester. Students will be expected to give a close reading and briefly assess the poem's place in the history of its genre.

GRADING

Participation	—	10%
Close Reading 1	—	20%
Close Reading 2	—	20%
Final Paper	—	50%

SCHEDULE OF READINGS (provisional)

- Week 1** What is a poem? (*Norton* pp. 730-45)
- Week 2** The Art of Reading Poetry (*Norton* pp. 761-7; 746-54)
- Week 3** The Speaker (*Norton* pp. 769-76)
- Week 4** Situation and Setting (*Norton* pp. 795-811)
- Week 5** Theme and Tone (*Norton* pp. 830-44)
- Week 6** Language: Word Choice and Order (*Norton* pp. 854-865)
- Week 7** Visual Imagery (*Norton* pp. 866-71)
- Week 8** Figures of Speech (*Norton* pp. 871-82)
- Week 9** Symbol (*Norton* pp. 884-98)
- Week 10** Sound (*Norton* pp. 899-918)
- Week 11** Structure (*Norton* pp. 930-946)
- Week 12** Traditional Forms (*Norton* pp. 951-64)
- Week 13** A Case Study: W. B. Yeats (*Norton* pp. 1031-46)