

Course Syllabus Writing Well with Poetry Minicourse

Class Information

Class Name: Writing Well with Poetry

Meets: Wednesdays 3 pm EST

Duration: minicourse Summer 1

Class Description

All writing, from essays and research papers to short stories, is improved through the study of poetry. Writing Well: A Study in Poetry focuses on seven major poetic techniques that will enable students to improve composition skills as well as literary analysis skills in a fun and engaging mini-course. Students will learn about theme, imagery and sensory details, symbolism, figures of speech, sound techniques, rhythm, and rhyme through analysis of some of poetry's greatest minds: Maya Angelou, Edgar Allen Poe, Langston Hughes, Sylvia Plath, Emily Dickinson, Percy Bysshe Shelley, Gerard Manley Hopkins, Robert Browning, Lucille Clifton, Robert Hayden, Natasha Trethewey, Christina Rossetti, Amanda Gorman, Robert Frost, William Blake, Naomi Shihab Nye, Yesenia Montilla, A.E. Housman, Robert Burns, Walt Whitman, and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Students will write poetry through in class exercises and homework to master the techniques covered in class.

Teacher Information

Ms. Amy Wallace

Email: amy@amywallace.com

Home Phone: (678) 377.5599

The best way to get in touch with me is through our Canvas class page email. Monday through Friday, I check email throughout the day and will answer as quickly as possible.

It is important not to wait until a few hours before an assignment is due to try to contact me for help.

Your Online Class

Classes will meet live for one weekly, 60-minute online session to include lecture, discussion, assignments, and individual and collaborative activities in real time with the teacher and with classmates. While class attendance is not required, there will be assignments and activities during class that failure to understand could have an impact on the final grade. Class participation and the opportunity to ask questions and interact with classmates is a significant part of ensuring that students get the most out of the virtual learning experience.

Class pages may be accessed anytime and will include summary information and recordings from live sessions for students who miss class or who would simply like to review a session. Students will also find announcements, links, assignments and grades, enrichment content, study helps, and other tools and information on class pages to facilitate class interaction and ease of use.

Attendance Policy

Presence: Students are strongly encouraged to attend live classes but are not required to attend live classes. However, students who do miss a class, for whatever reason, will be responsible for viewing the class recording and completing assignments. Recordings of each class are usually available within 24 hours of the class meeting

and may then be accessed 24/7 from the course class pages. Students may also review recorded classes at any time.

Participation: Active participation is essential for maintaining the best learning environment. It is also a fun part of learning. Students are not required to attend classes live, but students who do are expected to engage with the teacher and with each other. Outside of live sessions, students are expected to log on and visit the class pages to see and contribute to new content, activities, or assignments. There, students may review class material, keep up-to-date on announcements and assignments, and verify that there have not been any changes to the class calendar and/or agenda.

Class Conduct

Students should conduct themselves in a worthy and appropriate manner, which includes behaving respectfully and politely to each other and the teacher. In both live and asynchronous class activities, students should strive to stay on task and on topic, to use appropriate language, and to be gracious in speech and conduct toward others. Students should use the same guidelines for civil in-person behavior.

Students should strive for proper grammar and spelling in discussion boards and assignments, but the speedy and spontaneous nature of live class chat demands that these conventions may be loosened to facilitate more relaxed, informal communication.

Students who are unable to adhere to this type of conduct may be separated from the class, removed from the session if it continues to occur during a live class session, and will result in parent notification if the behavior is disrupting the class.

Class Schedule and Topical Agenda

SUMMER MINICOURSE

Week 1

Sound Techniques: Alliteration, Onomatopoeia

- The Bells by Edgar Allen Poe
- The Weary Blues by Langston Hughes
- When I am Dead by Christina Rossetti
- God's Grandeur by Gerard Manley Hopkins
- **Homework: Sound Technique Poem**

Week 2

Rhythm and Rhyme

- A Man's a Man by Robert Burns
- The Tiger by William Blake
- Tuesday 9/11 by Lucille Clifton
- **Homework: Unique Rhyme Poem**

Week 3

Figures of Speech: Metaphor, Simile, Oxymoron

- The Moon and the Yew Tree by Sylvia Plath

- I'm Nobody by Emily Dickinson
- Still I Rise by Maya Angelou
- A Perfect Game by Yesenia Montilla
- **Homework: Metaphor or Simile Poem**

Week 4

Figures of Speech: Personification, Apostrophe, and Figurative Language

- Kindness by Naomi Shihab Nye
- To the Moon by Percy Bysshe Shelley
- Captain! My Captain! by Walt Whitman
- To an Athlete Dying Young by AE Houseman
- **Homework: Personification Poem**

Week 5

Imagery

- Psalm of Life by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
- Frederick Douglass by Robert Hayden
- Meeting at Night by Robert Browning
- I felt a Funeral, in my Brain by Emily Dickinson
- **Homework: Imagery Poem**

Week 6

Symbolism

- Because I could not stop for Death by Emily Dickinson
- The Road Not Taken and Fire and Ice by Robert Frost
- **Homework: Symbolism Poem**

Week 7

Theme

- Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening by Robert Frost
- Southern History by Natasha Trethewey
- The Hill We Climb by Amanda Gorman

Grade Scale and Grading Policy

Writing Assignments

100%

Grading Scale (in percent):

A 100-90

B 89-80

C 79-70

D 69-60

F 59 and Below

Assignment Submission:

All assignments are specified in the class pages and are to be submitted through the course website as a [doc or docx file](#). If files are not doc or docx files, they are not counted as turned in.

Assignments are to be turned in before midnight EST [on the date they are due](#).

Assignments are returned with feedback and grades within 7 days after the due date (unless work is submitted late). Format specifications may vary for each assignment. These are discussed at the time of the assignment and will appear on the weekly page for this class.

Make-up/Late Assignment Policy: Assignments are late if they are submitted after the date they are due.

Late assignments will not be accepted five days after the due date.

For late assignments there will be a deduction of **a letter grade for each day late, up to five days. Work turned in five or more days late will receive a zero in the grade book.** Please take deadlines seriously.

Writing assignments should be completed in advance of any scheduled absences for extracurricular activities or vacations. Parents are required to contact the teacher a week or more before the scheduled absence to discuss extended deadlines or making up a missed quiz. If there is no parent email prior to an absence, there will be no extension on homework deadlines and no makeup on assessments.

The only exceptions to these policies are student illnesses or family emergencies. Parents must contact the teacher in case of illness or family emergencies.

At the end of the course, the lowest grade in each grading category will be dropped.

Tips for Student Success

Students who **are fully present, work diligently, actively participate (either via live class attendance or watching recordings promptly and attentively), and consistently communicate** will be the most successful.

Communication: Students who are unable to find something, are unable to remember instructions, are having trouble understanding, or are otherwise having difficulty engaging in the class should take every opportunity to communicate with the teacher. It is important to ask questions and keep an open line of communication about all class related activities for the best learning experience.

Academic Honor and Integrity

Colleges and universities, and indeed every professional and educational environment, take issues of academic honesty very seriously. Research shows that plagiarism, what most people automatically think of when hearing the phrase “academic honesty,” is most often committed when students are pressed for time, care very little about the assignment, or are unaware of what plagiarism is. These issues may be addressed by planning, attitude adjustment, and careful instruction, and these areas of concern may be visited as needed in this class. However, academic honesty is also much more. It is a matter of integrity. Being a student of integrity includes submitting your own work, working in a timely manner, and demonstrating consistent effort and diligence.

- Plagiarism is the act of presenting the ideas and statements of another as if they are one’s own without crediting the original source.
- When students use someone else’s words or ideas, or paraphrase someone else’s ideas, they must credit the source by following the guidelines provided by the teacher.
- Plagiarism can occur with as little as two copied words or an idea that is unique to a research subject.

If I suspect plagiarism has occurred, I will notify the student, parents, and the school’s director. The resulting grade for the plagiarized assignment or assessment will be a zero. If plagiarism occurs again, action will be taken which could include dismissal from the course.

A Few More Tips for Student Success

Give your absolute best to every one of your endeavors.

- **Attend live classes. Instruction from teachers and information shared by fellow students will help you best understand the course content. While you are not required to attend class live, it is in your best interest and the interest of fellow students for you to come prepared to share and grow together. If you do miss a class, for whatever reason, you will be responsible for viewing the class recording and completing assignments. Recordings of each class are usually available within 24 hours of the class meeting and may then be accessed 24/7 from the class pages. Students may also review recorded classes at any time.**
- **Check class pages daily. This will help you manage your daily work and not miss any important information. Our class pages will be the primary communication and instruction tool between live class sessions.**
- **Invest your best effort and sufficient time into each assignment. Please plan to spend 4-5 hours outside of class on coursework. Make the best use of your time through focused, disciplined effort.**
- **Ask questions and communicate effectively. If you have any questions about the course instruction or assignments, please ask! Don't wait until you're having so much trouble you feel overwhelmed.**
- **Enjoy your assignments. Our class will stretch you to try new things, some you may not enjoy as well as others. But if you give your best and try to find at least one thing you enjoy about each assignment, you will find your work more fulfilling and your heart lighter.**