

Poetry & Poetics I

LMC 3204-R

CRN: 56684

GT-E Summer 2026

Georgia Institute of Technology

Instructor: Travis Denton

Time: TBA Classroom: TBA

Office:

Office Hours:

TBA

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Core Area: Humanities/Fine Arts

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Humanities area.

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I interpret the human experience through creative, linguistic, and philosophical works?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze and interpret the meaning, cultural significance, and ethical implications of literary/philosophical texts or of works in the visual/performing arts.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Ethical Reasoning
- Information Literacy
- Intercultural Competence

Course Description

Poetry & Poetics I is designed for those who are new to poetry as well as those who are experienced poets or longtime students of the craft. The course is designed not only for those who wish to study the craft of poetry from a literary standpoint, but also for those who seek to analyze poems through the lens of a creative writer and would like to develop a deeper appreciation of poetry. The class provides students the unique opportunity to study poetry in an intensive reading course where representative poems from nearly all major poetic movements will be examined line by line with close attention to sound and sense, as well as to form and theory. The poems will also be examined in the appropriate historical and cultural context. There will also be a poetry writing and workshop component to this course as we enter the mind of the poet.

Learning Outcomes

* Interpretive Frameworks: Students will become familiar with a variety of social, political, and philosophical theories and be able to apply those theories to creative and scientific texts, as well as to their own cultural observations.

* Literary/Film/Narrative Art Inquiry: Students will be aware of the traditions and conventions of literature, film, and other forms of narrative art, and they will be able to analyze those traditions and conventions in specific cultural contexts.

*Students will devote an entire semester to the reading and study of poetry and become conversant with issues of technique as well as literary devices and poetic forms.

*Students will understand the defining characteristics of the specific genre studied and what sets it apart from other writing genres and art forms.

Required Texts

There are no required texts to be purchased. I will provide you with class materials as needed. You may be asked to bring in additional web-based or library materials, which you will be assigned to find on your own.

Subscription to “Poem-a-Day” from the Academy of American Poets. It’s free, too. Sign up at www.poets.org.

Graded Assignments:

Your grade will be calculated based on the following:

Attendance/ Class Participation/Daily Work	=25%
Final Portfolio/Journal/Critical Preface	=20%
Midterm Exam	=20%
Motion Poems (Group Project)	=15%
Presentation	=20%
	<hr/>
	=your grade

Attendance

In order to succeed as a writer, or in any other field of study for that matter, you must be dedicated and disciplined. A major indicator of those two traits is regular attendance. Therefore, you are expected to be in class. More than two absences may result in a standard letter grade deduction.

Tardiness must also be kept to a minimum. If you must be late or absent on a given day, please email me in advance, and I will extend you the same courtesy.

Class Participation

Being present in body is important, but being present in mind is equally as important. That is why you must add to class discussions and comment on your colleagues’ work as necessary. To earn all points for class participation you must have read all assigned materials and be prepared for class discussions.

Assignments

Your talent as a writer or your level of creativity will not be graded. However, your time put into assignments, your level of engagement, completion and accuracy of assignments, as well as mastery of the material will.

Reading/Writing/Travel Journal

750 words per week—your ongoing assignment. Your journal should focus mainly on a discussion of what you’re reading in class (reaction to the poems), ideas for poems, things you see as you move about the world each day, drafts of new poems, things you heard on the train or street, notes on articles you’ve read during the week which inspire you in some way, and more.

Motion Poems

We’ll divide into groups, and each group will make a short film that is a visual interpretation of a single poem.

Poet Review Presentation

You’ll choose a poet, preferably a modern/contemporary poet and present that poet’s work to the class in an approximately 15-minute talk that includes representative poems, relevant biographical information as

well as a discussion of the poet's style, major aims, and any other aspects of the poet's work that are important to the conversation. I will need to approve your choice of poet for this assignment.

Late Work

If you know that you will be absent on the day that an assignment is due, then turn in that assignment in class on the day before it is due. If you have an unforeseen illness or emergency the day that an assignment is due, you must make every effort to email me that assignment. Turning in work late may result in a standard letter-grade deduction for that assignment.

Honor Code/Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. Review [Georgia Tech's Honor Code](#) and the student [Code of Conduct](#).

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarism on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the [Office of Disability Services](#) (404-894-2563) as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. [The Student-Faculty Expectations](#) articulate some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class