

Universidade de São Paulo
Faculdade de Filosofia, Letras e Ciências Humanas
Departamento de Letras Modernas
Estudos Linguísticos e Literários em Inglês

FLM0544 – Introdução à Poesia – Noturno
Profa. Dra. Fabiana Valeria da Silva Tavares

Aim: to stimulate students concerning their interest and pleasure of reading poetry from the English literary tradition, while introducing key concepts, formal structures and symbolic resources that will allow them not only to analyse some of the most representative poems, but to share their impressions and, overall, to enjoy the process of learning to read poetry in English.

Week 1 (Aug.8th) – Introduction to the course. Syllabus.

Week 2 (Aug.15th) Analytical elements: what is poetry? Discussion of poems based on key concepts introduced in Terry Eagleton’s *How to Read a Poem* (Read Chapters 2 and 5).

Week 3 (Aug.29th) – Absence of Professor due to personal reasons, approved by the English Department.

Week 4 (Sep.12th) – Continuation. Study of selected poems for the discussion of key concepts introduced in Terry Eagleton’s *How to Read a Poem* (Read Chapters 2 and 5)

Week 5 (Sep.19th) – Continuation. Study of selected poems for the discussion of key concepts introduced in Terry Eagleton’s *How to Read a Poem* (Read Chapters 2 and 5)

Week 6 (Sep.26th) – Study of *Beowulf*. Study of theme and structure. Excerpts of *The Canterbury Tales*; *The Miller’s Prologue*; *The Wife of Bath*.

Week 7 (Oct.3rd) – Medieval Ballads. Protest song ballads. *The Three Ravens*; *Bonnie George Campbell*. *Fair Margaret and Sweet William*; *Lady Margaret*; *Who’s at my window weeping*; *The Miller of Dee*. Complementary reading: Basic of English Studies: Poetry.

Week 8 (Oct.10th) – The times and themes of Shakespeare: sonnets. Literary and socio-historical context. Study of some sonnets. Sonnet 116 “Let me not the marriage of true minds”; sonnet 118 “Shall I compare Thee to a summer’s day?”; sonnet 130 “My mistress’ eyes are nothing like the sun”. Complementary reading: TBD.

Week 9 (Oct.17th) – Metaphysical sonnets. John Donne. Lyrical and satirical poems. Holy sonnets. Paradoxes and problems. *Song*; *The Flea*; *A Valediction forbidding mourning*.

Week 10 (Oct.24th) – The Romantic movement: Form and symbol in the works by William Blake – “The Little Black Boy”; “The Chimney Sweeper”; “Holy Thursday”; “The Lamb”; William Wordsworth – “Composed upon Westminster Bridge” ; “I wandered lonely as a cloud”; “Ode: Intimations of Immortality”; Samuel Taylor Coleridge – “Answer to a Child’s Question”; “Christabel”; “The Ballad of the Ancient

Mariner”; Lord Byron – “She walks in beauty”; “When we two parted”; and John Keats “To lord Byron”; “La Belle Dame Sans Merci”; “To Autumn”.

Week 11 (Oct.31st) – The Romantic movement: Form and symbol in the works by William Blake – “The Little Black Boy”; “The Chimney Sweeper”; “Holy Thursday”; “The Lamb”; William Wordsworth – “Composed upon Westminster Bridge”; “I wandered lonely as a cloud”; “Ode: Intimations of Immortality”; Samuel Taylor Coleridge – “Answer to a Child’s Question”; “Christabel”; “The Ballad of the Ancient Mariner”; Lord Byron – “She walks in beauty”; “When we two parted”; and John Keats “To lord Byron”; “La Belle Dame Sans Merci”; “To Autumn”.

Week 12 (Nov.7th) – The world hears America singing: Walt Whitman. “Song of Myself”; “I Hear America Singing”; “O Captain! My Captain!”. Complementary material: intertextual scene in *Dead Poets Society* (1990).

Week 13 (Nov.14th) – Continuation. Robert Frost. “Fire and Ice”; “The Road not Taken”.

Week 14 (28th) – Langston Hughes. The Harlem Renaissance. “Mother to Son”; “Christ in Alabama”; “I, Too, Sing America”. Complementary material: lyrics and song: Billie Holliday. *Strange Fruit*.

Week 15 (Dec.5th) – Continuation. Lyrical expression through the lens of women writers: Emily Dickinson – “Because I could not stop for Death”; “If I can stop one heart from breaking”; “Hope is the thing with feathers”; Elizabeth Bishop – “One Art”; and Sylvia Plath – “You’re”; “Lady Lazarus”.

ASSESSMENT:

First assessment: to be handed in on October 17rd (Rearranged date)

In PAIRS, an analysis of formal aspects in a poem to be defined and informed by the beginning of September.

Format: Times New Roman 12; 1,5 line spacing; 2-3 pages (bibliography and notes excluded from page limit).

Second assessment: to be presented on November 28th

In groups of 4 or 5 students (not more, not less); a video with a very brief and relevant biographical and socio-historical information relevant to the analysis of a poem. The video will have a duration of 15 to 20 minutes and will be uploaded on Youtube. Each group will receive a specific author to work with. Further details will be discussed in class during the course.

EACH ASSESSMENT WILL BE WORTH 10 MARKS.

ATTENTION: “Papers” will be accepted only when submitted on the due dates and only in printed version (first assessment) and uploaded on YouTube (second assessment).

References will be provided in due course.