

# Ocean County College Introduction to Poetry Course Syllabus

Semester: Fall 2018  
Course: ENGL 211-01  
Class Times: MW 9:30-10:45  
Classroom: I319  
Email: [dbordelon@ocean.edu](mailto:dbordelon@ocean.edu)

Instructor: D. Bordelon  
Office: Instructional 305; tel: 255-0400 x2408  
Office Hours: MTH 12:30-1:45  
Campus Mailbox: Humanities Office

## Catalog Definition

This course surveys poetry as a distinct literary genre. Students will study selected lyric, narrative, and dramatic poems representing varied literary traditions. They will discuss and write about poetic themes and structures through reference to relevant cultural and historical contexts.

## Course Objectives

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. Describe the historical development of poetry as literary genre.
2. Consider poems in their historical, political, social, and literary contexts.
3. Recognize major poetic devices, forms, and movements.
4. Analyze poems for symbols, themes, and levels of meaning.
5. Discuss and write about a variety of poems.
6. Use relevant critical literature to create a research essay on a poetic topic.
7. Say they have had fun with words.

## General Education Goals

This course addresses independent thinking, communication, ethical judgment, aesthetic appreciation, historical consciousness, civic responsibility and lifelong learning goals.

## Course Outline

We will read, discuss, and write about poetry.

## Required Texts

*The Norton Introduction to Poetry* ed. by J. Paul Hunter, Alison Booth, and Kelly J. Mays.

## Additional materials

Your brain and your interest

## Grading Criteria

Your final grade will be based on an average of 1) annotations, 2) essay one, 3) essay two, 4) body paragraphs, 5) class discussion (determined by the number and quality of your in-class responses), 6) final writing assignment.

Unless otherwise noted, your written work will be graded according to the depth and range of your ideas and the clarity of your expression. Specific criteria can be found on the course site.

## Course Grading Scale:

A = 90-100; B+ = 85-89; B = 80-84; C+ = 75-79; C = 70-74; D = 60-69; F = 59-0

## Snow Day or Class Cancellation

If class is cancelled, check the course site and your email for instructions.

**Attendance:** Attendance will be taken in each class meeting and recorded in the course Learning Management System. You will be withdrawn for excessive absences per college policy 5162. You cannot miss more than 10% of the class meetings without penalty. If you miss 6 or more classes, you will be withdrawn.

## Withdrawing from the Course

If you withdraw or stop attending this class after the tenth week of classes, the college will issue an "F" for a final grade.

**Academic Honesty:** Plagiarism is defined as taking the words or ideas of another person without documenting them. A form of academic theft, the college holds that any instance of plagiarism may result in a failing grade. In this course you will be taught to recognize and avoid plagiarism. Any student aiding another student in any form of academic dishonesty is considered equally guilty and subject to the same penalties. See Policy #5180 for more information.

Unless approved by me, work submitted for another course/class cannot be used for this course.

**Statement about Civility:** Cell phones? Turn them off when you enter the classroom. The usual class decorum rules – remaining quiet when others are speaking, following directions, showing respect for others, etc. – are expected to be followed. Ocean County College defines civility primarily as the demonstration of respect for others, basic courtesy, reciprocity (treating others as we wish to be treated), and behaviors that create a positive environment in which to learn and to work. See [www.ocean.edu/civility.htm](http://www.ocean.edu/civility.htm).

**Campus Resources:** Professional and peer tutors are available to support students throughout their time at Ocean County College. Tutors will discuss and share strategies and resources with students to foster learners that are intentional and independent. Students who are English language learners are encouraged to access communication, reading, and writing support at the Writing Center located on the second floor of the Instructional building. To learn more about tutoring services, resources, and additional academic support programs at OCC, please visit [www.ocean.edu](http://www.ocean.edu) keyword “tutoring” for more information.

**Library Databases:** A database is where you find journal, newspaper, and magazine articles, and more. Each database contains thousands of articles which can be searched for with keywords and subject terms. <https://oceancc.sharepoint.com/sites/offices/library/SitePages/Home.aspx?apr=1&wa=wsignin1%2E0>

**Statement of Accommodation:** Reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities are determined and approved by the Center for Student Success – Disability Services. If you, as a student, believe you are eligible for accommodations (e.g. testing, captioning, ASL, large print) but have not obtained approval please contact Disability Services immediately at 732-255-0456 (voice), 711 (NJ Relay), or e-mail at [accommodations@ocean.edu](mailto:accommodations@ocean.edu). Disability Services notifies students of their approved academic reasonable accommodations and coordinates implementation of those accommodations. It is the student’s responsibility to provide faculty with a copy of the individualized accommodation plan, and are encouraged to discuss details of the implementation of individual accommodations.

**Privacy:** All individuals should not assume that anything received, sent or stored in this course or in any course is private. Students’ written work, assignments, and test results may be used anonymously for college assessment and instructional purposes. Course content, support materials, and communications (including chats, discussions, emails, and any other forms of communication) may be used for quality assurance purposes by authorized college administrators.

**Video and audio Recording Policy:** Ocean County College promotes a mutually respectful learning environment where students and faculty engage freely in open discussion on topics of intellectual, academic, and personal interest. The college strives to provide an environment where students and faculty alike are free to express their opinions, to protect their intellectual property rights and explore controversial topics without offense. To that end, any attempt by students to record, transcribe, or in any way memorialize class activities or student/faculty interactions would be likely to detract from the atmosphere for free and open discussion. Students are prohibited from using video or audio recording devices to record lectures, class discussions, conversations, or interactions between and among faculty or between faculty and students, unless prior written approval to record is obtained from the faculty member or, if appropriate, from the Office of Disability Services. Students permitted to record lectures or class discussions acknowledge that the recording is for individual use and solely to assist in studying for the course. The recordings may not be shared, released, publicly or electronically posted or distributed. Students who violate this policy will be exposed to academic integrity sanctions and/or other recourse available to the faculty and college.

### General Notes

If for some reason you miss a class, remember to keep up with the readings and writing assignments by following the syllabus and check with me by phone or email so I know you're alive. In any event, refer often to the syllabus and website and pace your work according to it.

Keep in mind the following two items from the student handbook: 1) a student is expected to spend four to six hours per week outside of class on course work; 2) a full-time student should not work more than twenty hours per week during an academic semester.

### Student Profile

Fill out the following information in an email and send it to me.

Course name and semester/year	Courses this semester
Name:	Job/hobby – how many hours a week
Address (include zip)	Major in college/Career goal
Email:	Last books read:
Phone: D)            N)	Magazines/Newspapers regularly read:
Previous English courses taken/Professor:	How did you land in my class? (pot luck? recommended? --by whom?)
Previous courses taken	

**Body Paragraph Instructions**

See “Body Paragraphs” on the Course Documents page of the Course Site for specific instructions.

**Disclaimer**

Individual faculty members may make reasonable changes to this course outline exclusive of course requirements, course calendar, and grading procedures.

All individuals should not assume that anything received, sent, or stored in this course or in any course is private. Students’ written work, assignments, and test results may be used anonymously for college assessment purposes and for example work. Course content, support materials, and communications (including chats, discussions, emails, and any other forms of communication) may be used for quality assurance purposes by authorized college administrators.

**Important Notes**

Ocean Connect is the official email communication for students at OCC. Failure to pay for this course may result in your being dropped for non-payment.

**Class schedule**

This schedule is subject to change as the need arises. Reading and homework assignments are due on the day noted on the schedule.

W 9/5	Course introduction: readings past and present
<p><b>Tip #1: Prepare to write in your textbook. If you want to resell it at the end of the semester, be sure to buy a mechanical pencil and erasers. You will be graded on the annotations in your text Note: highlighting with yellow markers is not annotating.</b></p> <p><b>Tip #2: Ultimately, poetry is fun with words – and there are many kinds of fun . . . .</b></p>	
M 9/10	Reading Poetry: 1-15 textbook Expect reviews of annotations on the assigned reading
W 9/12	Reading Poetry Greek and Latin Poets: Three Sappho poems and circled Catullus poems (handout is also in “Doc Sharing” tab on Course Home.) Addonizio “First Poem for You” (8 in handout – also on >Course Documents>Readings);
M 9/17	Poetry handout: Chinese poems (6-7); Wallace Stevens “Disillusionment of 10 o’ Clock”
W 9/19	Haiku: past and Present (391-396); Buson (Packet 8); Collins “Japan” (Packet 8)
M 9/24	Catch up
W 9/26	Writing day: Bring in draft of paragraph #1
<p><b>The best way to work on your writing (and thus your thinking) is to get feedback on it before you submit it for grading. The best place to get feedback is in my office or in the Writing Center, R124.</b></p>	
M 10/1	<b>Complete and follow instructions for submitting Body Paragraph #1 (See Course Documents page of course site).</b> Reading Around – bring textbook
W 10/3	Marlowe “The Passionate Shepard to His Love” (390); Raleigh “The Nymph’s Reply” (397); Williams “Raleigh Was Right” (398); Ginsberg “A Further Proposal” (399)
M 10/8	Shakespeare and the sonnet: 255-261; “Let Me Not” (19); Millay “[I shall forget you presently]” (269); Hecht “Spring Break” (273).
W 10/10	Bring in rough draft of paragraph #2

## First Day Poems

I dwell in Possibility – (466)  
By Emily Dickinson

I dwell in Possibility –  
A fairer House than Prose –  
More numerous of Windows –  
Superior – for Doors –

Of Chambers as the Cedars –  
Impregnable of eye –  
And for an everlasting Roof  
The Gambrels of the Sky –

Of Visitors – the fairest –  
For Occupation – This –  
The spreading wide my narrow Hands  
To gather Paradise –

(circa 1862)

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Introduction to Poetry  
By Billy Collins

I ask them to take a poem  
and hold it up to the light  
like a color slide

or press an ear against its hive.

I say drop a mouse into a poem  
and watch him probe his way out,

or walk inside the poem's room  
and feel the walls for a light switch.

I want them to waterski  
across the surface of a poem  
waving at the author's name on the shore.

But all they want to do  
is tie the poem to a chair with rope  
and torture a confession out of it.

They begin beating it with a hose  
to find out what it really means.

(1988)