

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE**

**ENGL 226
Introduction to Poetry**

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: ENGL 226 Introduction to Poetry

B. New or Modified Course: Modified

C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Fall Year: 2017

D. Effective Term: Fall 2018

E. Sponsoring Department: English

F. Semester Credit Hours: 3

G. Weekly Contact Hours: 3 Lecture: 3
 Laboratory: 0
 Out of class student work per week: 6

H. Prerequisites/Corequisites: ENGL 111 English Composition I

I. Laboratory Fees: None

J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair and
Divisional Dean at time of approval: Susan Arvay susan.arvay@raritanval.edu;
Patrice Marks patrice.marks@raritanval.edu

II. Catalog Description

Prerequisite: ENGL 111 English Composition I. This course will help students to understand both the craft and the art of poetry; how poems are made and why they are valuable. Texts will range from the lyrics of Sappho to the odes of Pablo Neruda to the newest work of contemporary U.S. poets. A central issue will be defining poetry and the myriad forms that poetry can take. The approach will be interdisciplinary, uniting historical and cultural perspectives to explore the relationship between experience and poetry, and between poetic theory and poetry. Students can expect, therefore, to gain not only a knowledge of the nature, history, and variety of poetry but also greater skill, insight, and pleasure as readers, writers, and thinkers.

III. Statement of Course Need

- A. Introduction to Poetry provides students with an opportunity to study an important literary genre. It is a course typically featured in college English departments. Introduction to Poetry provides a foundation for students who choose to major in English or other areas of the Liberal Arts or Humanities.
- B. This course does not have a Lab component.
- C. This course generally transfers as a Humanities/English Literature general education course.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course serves as a General Education course in Humanities/English Literature
- C. This course meets a Category B elective requirement in the English AA degree.
- D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content

Topics Covered May Include:

- A. Definitions of Poetry
- B. Methods of Reading Poetry
- C. Critical Approaches to Poetry
- D. Cross-Cultural Approaches to Poetry
- E. Paraphrasing Poetry
- F. Subgenres (Lyric Poetry, Narrative Poetry, Dramatic Poetry, Didactic Poetry)
- G. Tone
- H. Persona
- I. Diction
- J. Denotation and Connotation
- K. Imagery
- L. Closed Form/Open Form
- M. Figurative Language
- N. Music and Poetry
- O. Concrete Poetry
- P. Sound and Meaning
- Q. Rhythm and Meter Symbolism
- R. Myth
- S. Poetry in Translation

Poets Covered May Include:

- A. Sappho

B. Walt Whitman
C. Eavan Boland
D. Allen Ginsberg
E. Wislawa Szymborska
F. Derek Walcott
G. William Butler Yeats
H. Naomi Shihab Nye
I. Rainer Maria Rilke
J. Robert Frost
K. Emily Dickinson
L. Li Po
M. Anne Sexton
N. W.H. Auden
O. Claude McKay
P. Langston Hughes
Q. Sharon Olds
R. Martín Espada
S. William Carlos Williams
T. Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz
U. William Shakespeare
V. George Herbert
W. Sylvia Plath
X. William Blake
Y. Alfred, Lord Tennyson
Z. Octavio Paz
AA. Muriel Rukeyser
BB. Pablo Neruda
CC. Adrienne Rich
DD. T.S. Eliot
EE. Dylan Thomas
FF. Elizabeth Bishop
GG. Matsuo Basho
HH. Jane Kenyon
II. Gwendolyn Brooks
JJ. Edna St. Vincent Millay
KK. Tupac Shakur
LL. Kim Addonizio
MM. A.E. Stallings
NN. Yusef Komuyakaa

VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes

A. General Education Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. employ correct literary terminology in discussions and in written work. (GE-NJ 1, 6)
2. interpret texts for discussion and written work, employing textual evidence. (GE-NJ 1, 6, *)
3. identify and illustrate the richness and variety of poetry, both formally and creatively, in terms of the many diverse perspectives that writers from a variety of backgrounds have brought to the art (GE-NJ 1, 6, 8)

(*embedded critical thinking)

B. Course Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. explain the components of poetry as a literary genre
2. appraise cultural context through an examination of poems
3. examine ways poets use elements of craft such as meter, figurative language, rhyme, etc.

C. Assessment Instruments:

1. student oral presentations
2. simulation/role playing
3. student collaboration
4. journals
5. other, as specified by the instructor

VII. Grade Determinants

- A. Essays that communicate effectively in standard English with attention to grammar, mechanics, and the finer points of writing style
- B. In-class essays
- C. Discussion questions
- D. Exams and quizzes
- E. Research projects and/or collaborative project
- F. Class participation and preparation
- G. Regular written homework responses

Formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning may include:

- A. lecture/discussion
- B. small-group work
- C. guest speakers
- D. student oral presentations
- E. simulation/role playing
- F. student collaboration
- G. independent study
- H. regular writing activities

VIII. Texts and Materials

- A. Suggested textbook:
Kennedy, X.J. and Dana Gioia. *Introduction to Poetry*. (Most recent edition). New York: Pearson, Longman
- B. primary sources
- C. student writing
- D. film and video
- E. audio sources
- F. web sources
- G. other computer-based sources

Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.

IX. Resources

Students may need to use library databases and other library resources for critical research assignments.

X. Honors Options

There is no Honors Option for this course