

Interpretation of Prose and Poetry

SP 160 - Section MMN (77060)

York College
The City University of New York
Fall 2015

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Department: Performing & Fine Arts 1A-12 (Core)

Course Description:

(Liberal Arts) Appreciating and sharing the literary experience through reading aloud; analysis and evaluation of various selections in order to apply the basic techniques of reading aloud.

Course Objectives:

- To enhance ability to share/perform the ideas and experiences of complex and culturally diverse poetic and prose material through the spoken word.
- To deepen and broaden understanding of basic poetic and prose elements in order to coalesce evidence for the analysis and evaluation of text.
- To critically infer thematic ideas and central purposes within a writer's work.
- To create, expound, and present interpretive understanding of poetic tone and action
- To clearly articulate poetic analysis and interpretative thoughts orally and in written short and long essays.
- To acquire a sincerity of talking and an empathy with one's audience.
- To gain appreciation of oral communication as a global art form.

Process:

- Interpreting and communicating text through the exploration of group exercises to elicit spontaneous and creative reactions to text with committed vocal and physical expression.
- Individual working sessions in front of the class to perceive and acquire the skills of "taking stage" – Clarity of focus and a physical/vocal public presence.
- Written analysis for articulation and comprehension of poetic elements in poetic text through short answer and short essay homework, 2 three page reports, and a five page final paper.
- Group discussion and critiques.

Interpretation of Prose and Poetry

SP 160 - Section MMN (77060)

- Poetry performance presentations. Students will present short and long poetic material (up to 3 minutes in length) both individually and chorally (within working groups.)
- The class will examine texts to illustrate poetic elements and figures as analysis tools both in class and as homework.
- The class will engage in group and individual exercises to examine specific presentation tools to create clarity of focus, thought, meaning, and interpretation within a text.

Course Requirements:

1. Two 3 page reports:
 - a) One report must be made from attending a poetry event outside of the York College Campus. Events must be approved by the instructor; suggestions will be provided.
 - b) One report must be made from attending one of the two York College Theatre productions; the performance dates are as follows:
 - 1) *Live, Laugh, Love, Cry! - the poetry of lindamichellebaron*
October 23 at 4pm
October 24 at 7pm
October 25 at 3pm
October 27 at Noon
 - 2) *Intimate Apparel* – by Lynn Nottage
December 4 at 4pm
December 5 at 7pm
December 6 at 3pm
December 8 at 12pm
December 11 at 7pm
December 12 at 2pm
 - Tickets at www.yorkpac.com
 - Box office hours to be announced
2. Analysis paper (5 pages): Discussing the poem selected by the student as their final presentation selection, this paper analyzes the poem using techniques discussed in class, and provided a short biography on the poet with at least two approved sources.
3. Final presentation project: Presentation of poem of the student's choice, approved by the instructor. Two minutes in length.
4. Weekly assignments: Selected questions on the analysis of selected texts may require short to medium length essay responses.
5. Take-home exam: Extensive review of all analysis techniques discussed in class and worked in weekly assignments. Includes short answers and analysis of selected texts.
6. Attendance and Participation: Attendance is mandatory. Penalties for tardiness and class absence are listed in this syllabus under Course Policies. Participation is also mandatory. Students who attend class but don't wish to participate in class activities and discussions

Interpretation of Prose and Poetry

SP 160 - Section MMN (77060)

must confer with the instructor. Under the judgment of the instructor, non-participation may be assessed as a class absence.

Suggested Text:

Any edition of the following is acceptable -

Perrine's Sound and Sense: An Introduction to Poetry by Thomas R. Arp
Publisher: Cengage Learning; 13 edition (December 30, 2010)
ISBN-10: 1428289704
ISBN-13: 978-1428289703

Course Expectations:

- Work must be handed in on time. Absence is no excuse. Absence is not an excuse. Assignments may be obtained by emailing the instructor. Work may be submitted on-time via mailbox (A1-12 Core), or by email. However, emailed work will not be graded. All email submissions must be followed with a printed copy upon the next attended class in order to receive a grade. Students are responsible for all missed work.
- Attendance of one production at York College.
- Attendance of a professional production.
- All work is typed.
- Class attendance and participation. Class meetings are focused around group work, discussions of the readings, and important writing skills, techniques, and conventions.

Course Assessment:

1. Weekly assignments are graded on a 6 point scale:

√* excellent (100)
√++ very good (92)
√+ good (85)
√/√+ fair(78)
√ adequate (72)
√- poor (65)

2. Take-home is graded on 100 points
3. Papers are given letter grades
4. **Final grade is calculated as follows:**

25% - Take-home exam
25% - Homework, class work (attitude, diligence, care, participation, preparation)
25% - 2 reports - short papers discussing attended required shows
25% - Final paper & Final presentation (ability to apply communication skills explored in classwork to personally selected material)
100% - Total

A =	100-90
B =	89-80
C =	79-70
D =	69-60
F =	59-0

Interpretation of Prose and Poetry

SP 160 - Section MMN (77060)

Class Policies:

Non-attendance & Tardiness Penalties:

- After 1 unexcused absence a student's final grade may be lowered by a half grade level.
- Lateness occurs after instructor has taken attendance and student has still not arrived; 2 unexcused latenesses = 1 absence. Arrival 1 hour past start constitutes an absence.

Late Assignment Penalties:

- For each week an assignment is late the grade will drop:
 - a. 1 level for homeworks
 - b. 1/3 letter grade for papers
 - c. 5 points on take-home exam

Note on Plagiarism:

- Please be aware that the official definition of plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of three (3) or more words from another person's writing; it is "the act of passing off as one's own the ideas or writings of another." Plagiarism comes from a Latin verb that means, "to kidnap." If you plagiarize you're kidnapping and stealing others' hard work and intellectual property. It is academic and public dishonesty. You must cite your sources. Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and can result in expulsion and a permanent record on your college transcript. If you are unsure about any material that you have included in an assignment, please contact me. You can also go to York College Bulletin, page 31, for the official policy on plagiarism. Deliberate plagiarism on any assignment will result in a grade of F for the course. This F can become a permanent mark on your transcript.

INC Grades

- Incomplete grades are given solely at the discretion of the instructor. See the York College Bulletin of more details.

Blackboard

- You are responsible for checking blackboard for class information, assignments, plays, and scenes, etc. Once you have a college email, you can log on to blackboard and this class.

Group Work

- Throughout the semester you will be asked to work in groups. This puts the responsibility of learning on you.
- You are responsible for your own learning. You are equally responsible for the learning of your classmates.

Interpretation of Prose and Poetry

SP 160 - Section MMN (77060)

In-class Behavior:

- Students are expected to participate in class discussion and treat their peers with respect in such discussions.
- Use of cell-phones in class—including texting—will constitute an absence for that day
- Leaving for more than 20 minutes in the middle of class will constitute an absence
- Food other than water is not permitted in the classroom.

Adjustments are made for students with disabilities:

- For more information visit:
 - The Star Program
Rm. AC-1G02
718-262-2191
star@york.cuny.edu

College Writing Center

- York College provides assistance with writing. Contact the York College Writing Center:
 - AC-1C18
 - 718-262-2494
 - writingcenter@york.cuny.edu

Policy on Academic Integrity:

- Students should be aware that this instructor takes the issue of academic integrity and honesty very seriously.
- I suggest that you become aware and familiar with the CUNY policy on plagiarism, integrity, and academic honesty by either visiting the web, printed, or pdf versions of York's Academic Integrity Policy & Procedures.
- <http://york.cuny.edu/president/legal-compliance/legal-affairs/cuny-legal-policies-procedures/Academic-Integrity-Policy.pdf/view>

Interpretation of Prose and Poetry

SP 160 - Section MMN (77060)

Tuesdays (mostly)	Class-Work	Assignments & suggested readings
<i>Sep 1</i>	Go over syllabus – What is poetry?	Chap 1; hw 1
<i>Sep 8</i>	Paraphrasing	Chapter 2; hw 2
<i>Friday Sep 25</i>	Denotation & Connotation – Tone Discuss professional report opportunities	Chapters 3 & 10; hw 3 Begin selection search
<i>Sep 29</i>	Imagery, Theme	Chapter 4 & 9; hw 4
<i>Oct 6</i>	Metaphor	Chapters 5 & 6; hw 5
<i>Oct 13</i> Due: Individual selections	Symbol & Musical Devices (Note: October 16 - last day to withdraw w/out W)	Chapter 7; hw 6
<i>Oct 20</i>	Mid-term Assessment Go over Analysis paper	Take-home exam assigned
<i>Oct 27</i>	REVIEW for Exam Presentation elements: Focus & Thought	
<i>Nov 3</i> Due: Take-home exam Due: Report 1 draft (optional)	Individual work (Note: November 9 is last day to withdraw with W)	
<i>Nov 10</i> Due: Analysis outline	Presentation elements: Imagery & Meaning	
<i>Nov 17</i> Due: Report 1	Individual work	
<i>Nov 24</i> Due: Analysis draft (optional)	Individual work	
<i>Dec 1</i> Due: Report 2	Individual work	
<i>Dec 8</i> Due: Analysis Paper	Run-thru of all selections	
<i>Dec 22 ??</i>	Final Presentations	