English 3850: Seminar in Literary Study

Professor Andrew Franta  
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MW 11:50-1:10, ARCH 229  
Office: LNCO 3621  
Office hours: MW 1:30-2:30 and by appt.

Description:  
In this seminar, we will study lyric and narrative poetry, including sonnets, odes, satires, and romances, written by British and American poets from William Shakespeare to Elizabeth Bishop. The course is structured chronologically, and we will pay attention to how forms develop over time, but our primary focus will be on the analysis and interpretation of individual poems. Written assignments will break critical writing about literature down into discrete tasks: how to construct close readings of texts, how to formulate questions and claims about literary works, and how to manage evidence and make arguments about literature.

Requirements:  
Assignments will include three short papers (2 pages each), a paper proposal (1-2 pages), and a longer final paper (7-8 pages). There will also be brief research exercises, in-class writing, and small group discussions, as well as occasional quizzes on the reading. Regular attendance and active participation in class discussion are required. It is important that you keep up with the assigned reading and come to class ready to discuss what you’ve read. Final grades will be based on the short papers (10% each), final paper (30%), quizzes, in-class writing, group discussions, paper proposal, and research exercises (20% total), and class participation (20%).

Course Policies:  
Students are allowed three personal days for the semester; there are no excused absences. More than three absences will negatively affect your participation grade. If you miss ten or more class meetings, you will receive a failing grade for participation. If you are frequently late to class or leave early, these disruptions will count as absences and will negatively affect your participation grade. If you have conflicts that will prevent you from attending class, do not take this seminar. If you miss more than 50% of the class meetings, you will fail the course.

I will drop your two lowest quiz, in-class writing, or group discussion grades, but missing more than two in-class assignments will lower your average. There will be no opportunity to make up missed in-class assignments.

All work must be handed in on time; assignments handed in late will receive a lower grade. To receive credit for the course, you must complete all course assignments.

Text:  
Additional readings will be available on Canvas.

**Schedule (subject to revision):**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wk. 1</td>
<td>Jan. 6</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>Jan. 15</td>
<td>Library Meeting – <strong>Library Catalog Assignment</strong></td>
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<td>Wk. 3</td>
<td>Jan. 20</td>
<td>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</td>
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<td>Wk. 4</td>
<td>Jan. 27</td>
<td>Robert Herrick, “Corinna’s Going A-Maying,” “To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time” (226-8)</td>
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<td>Jan. 29</td>
<td>Andrew Marvell, “To His Coy Mistress,” “The Garden” (293-4, 296-8)</td>
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<td>Wk. 5</td>
<td>Feb. 3</td>
<td>Alexander Pope, “The Rape of the Lock” (357-74)</td>
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<td>Feb. 5</td>
<td>Pope, “The Rape of the Lock” – <strong>First Paper Due</strong></td>
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<td>Wk. 6</td>
<td>Feb. 10</td>
<td>Samuel Taylor Coleridge, “The Eolian Harp,” “This Lime Tree Bower My Prison” (Canvas)</td>
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<td>Wk. 7</td>
<td>Feb. 17</td>
<td>President’s Day</td>
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<td>Feb. 19</td>
<td>Percy Bysshe Shelley, “Ode to the West Wind,” “The Cloud,” “To a Skylark” (543-9) – <strong>MLA Bibliography Assignment Due</strong></td>
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<td>Feb. 26</td>
<td>Keats, “Ode to a Nightingale,” “Ode on a Grecian Urn” (582-4, 585-6) – <strong>Second Paper Due</strong></td>
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Wk. 9  Mar. 2  Robert Browning, “Porphyria’s Lover,” “My Last Duchess,” “Fra Lippo Lippi” (642-4, 656-64)

Mar. 4  Christina Rossetti, “Goblin Market” (Canvas)

SPRING BREAK, March 8-15

Wk. 10  Mar. 16  Walt Whitman, “Song of Myself,” “Crossing Brooklyn Ferry” (679-89)

Mar. 18  Whitman, “Crossing Brooklyn Ferry”

Wk. 11  Mar. 23  Emily Dickinson, esp. 314, 320, 359, 372 (719-32)

Mar. 25  Dickinson, esp. 479, 591, 764, 788 – Third Paper Due


Apr. 1  William Butler Yeats, “Sailing to Byzantium,” “Among School Children,” “The Circus Animal’s Desertion” (774-5, 776-8, 782-4)

Wk. 13  Apr. 6  Wallace Stevens, “The Snow Man,” “Sunday Morning,” “Anecdote of the Jar,” “Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird” (816, 817-22)

Apr. 8  Stevens, “The Idea of Order at Key West” (824-5) – Paper Proposal Due

Wk. 14  Apr. 13  Elizabeth Bishop, “The Fish,” “Sestina,” “In the Waiting Room” (960-2, 963-6)

Apr. 15  Paper Conferences

Wk. 15  Apr. 20  Paper Conferences

Apr. 27  Final Paper Due
**Plagiarism:**
The University’s plagiarism policy will be strictly enforced. The Student Code defines plagiarism as “the unacknowledged use or incorporation of any other person’s work in, or as the basis for one’s own work offered for academic consideration or credit.” Examples of plagiarism include “representing as one’s own, without attribution, any other person’s words, phrasing, ideas, information or any other mode or content of expression.” Disciplinary action for plagiarizing papers or exams ranges from a failing grade on the assignment or in the course to suspension or expulsion from the University.

**ADA Notice:**
The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability & Access, 162 Olpin Union Building, 801-581-5020. CDA will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability & Access.

**University Safety Statement:**
The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit safeu.utah.edu.

**Addressing Sexual Misconduct:**
Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran’s status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677 (COPS).

**English Department Diversity Statement:**
Literature allows us to imagine the lives of others and broaden our perspectives. How we talk about it together, in the physical or virtual classroom, is part of that process. Our diverse identities and experiences will inform and enhance those discussions. As we approach sometimes difficult topics, each member of the class is expected to foster a respectful, generous, and supportive classroom environment that makes room for productive difference and reasoned debate.