Texas A&M-Corpus Christi  
English 3349.001:  
Themes and Forms of Poetry

5:30-6:45 pm MW  
Dr. Robb Jackson  
Bay Hall 234  
257 Faculty Center  
(3 hrs. credit)  
825-2464 (voice mail)  
Office hours: MW 3:30-5:30 pm, TR 10-11 & by appointment

Fall Semester 2011

Course Description and Themes
In this course we will explore several open-ended questions about poetry simultaneously: 1) What is a poem (in terms of genre)? 2) How can one best read and understand poetry? and 3) What is the current state of contemporary American poetry? Is it relevant and alive? In order to consider these questions, students will be asked to participate in an active, ongoing exploration of poetry by an inductive, discovery-based approach that will include *much* reading, writing, and discussing with one’s peers the fruits of one’s labors. The course presumes an upper-level standing and a *real* interest in reading and studying poetry.

Student Learning Objectives
Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to
• demonstrate presentation skills and the ability to lead class discussion as well as work in small groups.
• write critically and creatively in order to explore the genre of poetry.
• analyze poetry within a larger social, historical and cultural context.
• demonstrate their knowledge of MLA citation.

Resources
ISBN-10: 1401921469

3) Access to Internet Resources

Course Requirements

Poetry Reading Log

Description
Your personal poetry reading log can be electronic or kept in a three-ring binder or notebook, but it must contain the following elements:
1) Record the date for each entry--shoot for a minimum of 60 entries. Start with your favorite poems initially; then try to focus your reading on American poetry written/published since 1945.
2) Provide a copy of the poem, including the name of its author and all bibliographic information (whether an electronic or print source).
3) Your response to the poem: The purpose of your response is to record your personal reaction to the poem--what about it that strikes you as being important or otherwise noteworthy.
4) Your explication of the poem: The purpose of your explication is to make note of how the poem you’ve selected works as a poem--its salient features in terms of genre and/or technique.

Using Your Poetry Reading Log to Produce Formal Responses and Explications
At the end of each week, for eleven weeks, I will ask you to flesh out one of your informal responses or one of your explications for me and your peers to read. I’ll expect to receive a copy of the poem itself (including its bibliographic information) and your reponse or explication (according to the course syllabus) which should run 500-750 words.

Course Project & Open House Poetry Celebration
You will be required to participate in the creation of an individual or group anthology of poetry for a particular audience of readers and will present that anthology at our Open House Poetry Celebration during the last class session. This project will resemble a printed book in every way, containing an introduction, table of contents, anthology of poems, and complete bibliographic information for each poem, plus any other ancillary information necessary because of your purpose and/or audience. The poems one selects for one’s Poetry Reading Log are an obvious resource for the creation of this project. Each student will be required to write a course project proposal for my approval by Class 22, 09 November 2011.
Attendance, Participation & Preparation
I expect you to attend all class meetings, and to be on time. An excused absence will be granted for serious reasons only! No repeat performances! You can miss two classes for any reason, but each absence thereafter will result in a deduction of two points from your final grade.

Grading Policy
Your course grade will be based upon these course requirements:

- Poetry Reading Log: 50% (60 entries minimum)
- Formal Responses/Explications: 25% (10 total)
- Course Project: 15% (includes proposal)
- Open House Poetry Celebration: 05%
- Course Reflection: 05%

Grading Scale
100-90% = A
89-80% = B
79-70% = C
69-60% = D
below 60% = F

Plagiarism
I expect all your work this session to be yours alone. The highest standards of academic honesty are expected of students (and faculty). I will adhere to the University policy regarding academic honesty published in the University Catalog. Plagiarism or misrepresentation of references will result in failure of the project in question without opportunity to redo the work.

Reminder to English Majors
Don’t forget that as part of the English undergraduate capstone course (ENGL 4351), all English majors are required to submit a portfolio of writings in different discourse genres that they have completed for their college classes. To help you prepare for this assignment, you should keep a copy of all essays, research papers, literary analyses, creative and report writing, etc., so that you will have an ample selection from which to choose when the portfolio comes due. So keep your work from this class!

Special Notices
Notice to Students with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability
(physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office, located in Driftwood 101, at 825-5816. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

**Academic Advising:** The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, the student’s assigned faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

**Grade Appeal Process.** As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at [http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

**Syllabus (Subject to Adjustment)**

**Week 1**
- **Class 01:** 24 August 2011/W  
  Course Introductions

**Week 2**
- **Class 02:** 29 August 2011/M  
  Rosen-1: *Foreword* through “Chapter 1: Embodying a Poem,” pp. i-8
- **Class 03:** 31 August 2011/W  
  Response 1 Due

**Week 3**
- **No Classes:** 05 September 2011/M--Labor Day
- **Class 04:** 07 September 2011/W  
  Rosen-3: Chapters 4 & 5, pp. 47-102. 
  Explication 1 Due
Week 4
Class 05: 12 September 2011/M
Class 06: 14 September 2011/W
Rosen-4: Chapters 6 & 7, pp. 103-158.
Rosen-5: Chapters 8 & 9, pp. 159-198.
Response 2 Due

Week 5
Class 07: 19 September 2011/M
Class 08: 21 September 2011/W
Rosen-6: Chapters 10-Further Exploration, pp. 199-234.
Explication 2 Due

Week 6
Class 09: 26 September 2011/M
Class 10: 28 September 2011/W
Response 3 Due

Week 7
Class 11: 03 October 2011/M
Class 12: 05 October 2011/W
Explication 3 Due

Week 8
Class 13: 10 October 2011/M
Class 14: 12 October 2011/W
Response 4 Due

Week 9
Class 15: 17 October 2011/M
Class 16: 19 October 2011/W
Bring a Poem to Class-1
Bring a Poem to Class-2
Explication 4 Due

Week 10
Class 17: 24 October 2011/M
Class 18: 26 October 2011/W
Bring a Poem to Class-3
Bring a Poem to Class-4
Response 5 Due

Week 11
Class 19: 31 October 2011/M
Class 20: 02 November 2011/W
Bring a Poem to Class-5
Bring a Poem to Class-6
Explication 5 Due
Week 12
Class 21: 07 November 2011/M Bring a Poem to Class-7
Class 22: 09 November 2011/W Bring a Poem to Class-8
                  Project Proposal Due

Week 13
Class 23: 14 November 2011/M Open House Poetry Celebration (OHPC)
                  Workshop-1
Class 24: 16 November 2011/W OHPC Workshop-2

Week 14
Class 25: 21 November 2011/M OHPC Workshop-3
Conferences/Office Hour 23 November 2011/W

Week 15
Class 26: 28 November 2011/M OHPC Workshop-4
Class 27: 30 November 2011/W OHPC Workshop-5

Week 16
Class 28: 5 December 2011/M--Open House Poetry Celebration

Note: The final Draft of Course Project and Personal Course Reflection will be due during the scheduled exam time for this course.