ENGL 3349.001: Themes and Forms of Poetry  
Dr. Cailin Copan-Kelly  
Spring 2015  
T/R 11:00-12:15pm  
OCNR 133  
Office Hours: M/W 1:00-2:00 p.m.; T/R 1:00-2:30 p.m.

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Friends and Lovers

This course will explore poetry as an act of collaboration and community. Rather than viewing poetry as the work of a lone genius, we will focus on writers who wrote expressly for an audience of their own making – from fellow poets, translators, and editors, to their own friends and lovers. We will study the (at times bizarre) love poetry of Elizabeth Barrett Browning, William Butler Yeats, and Heather McHugh; we will explore the mentorship and collaborative dynamics between major modernists such as Ezra Pound and T.S. Eliot, Langston Hughes and Zora Neale Hurston, and Marianne Moore and Elizabeth Bishop. We will also consider the place of home and community in contemporary works by Natasha Trethewey, Joy Harjo, Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill and Kevin Young. Ultimately, we will explore how poetry serves as a vital connection between the writer and the reader.

Required Texts

ISBN-10: 1556592817

ISBN-10: 0143121480

ISBN-10: 0820343110
All other readings available on Blackboard (BB)

Students will be assessed according to the following assignments:
Attendance and Participation: 10%
Homework Assignments and In-Class Writing Responses (HIW): 15%
Group Scholarly Presentation: 15%
Explication Papers: 15%
Mid-Term Paper: 20%
Final Paper: 25%

Attendance:

Attendance is crucial for passing the course. If a student misses more than three classes, their attendance/participation grade will drop by 2/3 of a letter grade. An excess of four absences will result in a failing grade for Attendance/Participation. If a student is more than fifteen minutes late for class or leaves more than five minutes before the end of class, they will be counted as absent. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the Professor in the event of an absence.

Participation:

Participation is absolutely essential for success in this discussion-based course. In order for a student to receive an A in this category, students must contribute substantially to the discussion in every class meeting. These are the requirements for “substantial contribution” to discussion:

- Sharing comments and questions that refer to specific passages in the text that we have read for the day
- Listening to and building off of other students contributions to class discussion so we can conduct a genuine conversation about the reading
- Engaging in considerate/constructive debate with your fellow students
- Fully participating in all group work and in-class writing assignments
- Bringing all the required reading materials to class; be sure to print off any material from Blackboard or bring them to class on an e-reader.

Homework Assignments and In-Class Writing Responses (HQI) (15%):

Quizzes, homework assignments and in-class writing responses will be given in-class throughout the course in order to assess students’ completion and comprehension of the assigned reading. The Professor does not divulge the number of HQIs that will be given over the course of the semester. Homework assignments and in-class writing
Responses missed due to absence or tardiness cannot be made up. If a student leaves class early, any HQI completed in class will be discounted.

Scholarly Group Presentation (15%):

The Scholarly Presentation is a 5-8 minute presentation on a relevant topic to our reading for the day. Students must supplement their oral presentation with a visual guide, such as a power point or handout. Students will choose a presentation topic from one of the three following categories (just one total; not one from each category): Biographical, Historical OR the Expanding the Canon Presentation. A sign-up sheet will be passed around on the first full week of class. More details will be given regarding the specific requirements for the presentation along with the sign-up sheet during the first week of class.

Explication Papers (20%):

Students will produce two thought papers throughout the semester. Thought papers should be 2-3 pages in length and should engage primarily with one quoted passage from one text that we have read. A more detailed description of the assignment with suggested topics will be provided closer to the due date.

Mid Term Paper (20%):

The final paper is 5-6 pages in length and will be based primarily on a close reading of 2-3 poems concerning a common topic or critical problem. More details will be provided in an assignment sheet

Final Paper (25%):

The final paper will require students to produce original analysis of one text that also engages with scholarly research on their selected topic. A creative option and a service-learning option will also be available for this final project. More information will be given as the due date approaches.

Course Supplies:

You will need access to the following materials for the course:

- A writing utensil and paper with you in class; you will often be required to turn in written assignments for this course, so be sure to have a pen/pencil and paper on hand
- A computer with Microsoft Word and a printer to write/print your papers
A computer with reliable internet access and a current version of Adobe Acrobat reader for the pdfs on Blackboard

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in the failure of the assignment. A second offense will result in the referral of the student for disciplinary sanctions to Academic Affairs and the possible failure of the course.

For more information on plagiarism and academic misconduct, see the TAMU-CC student code of conduct. http://judicialaffairs.tamucc.edu/assets/Article%20III.pdf Plagiarism is easily avoided. Always fully cite your source (the author, title, date/place of publication) in MLA style. Do not copy other works from the internet, Sparknotes, enotes or other reading guides, web sites that sell (usually horribly written) essays, books or articles and present that work in your papers and in your exam answers. That is plagiarism. If you are even in doubt about when to cite a source, please contact me at Cailin.Copan-Kelly@tamucc.edu.

Dropping the Course

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Nov. 7, 2014 is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

Classroom Standards and Professional Behavior Guidelines

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic
classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, meetings with the professor during office hours etc.
Disruptive behavior that is prohibited during class and other instructional forums includes:

- Sleeping in class
- Arriving late to class
- Leaving class early
- Attending class without bringing the required reading
- Texting or talking on the phone in class
- Playing or listening to music during class
- Using a computer/tablet/phone during class for anything besides reading course material
- Eating in class
- Videotaping lectures or class discussions
- Talking over other students or the professor during class discussion
- Having side conversations with your neighbor during class discussion
- Using offensive or derogatory language in class discussion

**Grade Appeals**

Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, cla.tamucc.edu/students/studenSinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.

**Academic Advisement**

**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. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

**Disabilities Accommodations and Veterans**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you
believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816

**Statement of Academic Continuity**

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student

**Communication**

Students must regularly check Blackboard and their email account that is registered with S.A.I.L in order to receive updates pertaining to class.

**Reading and Assignment Schedule**

R Jan 22 Welcome/Introduction
T Jan 27 William Shakespeare, Sonnets
R Jan 29 John Donne and George Herbert
T Feb 3 Percy Bysshe Shelley and John Keats
R Feb 5 Elizabeth Barrett Browning
T Feb 10 Gerard Manley Hopkins
R Feb 12 William Butler Yeats
T Feb 17 **Explication Paper 1 due**
R Feb 19 Ezra Pound and H.D.
T Feb 24 T.S. Eliot and Wilfred Owen
R Feb 26 Dorothy Parker and W. H. Auden
T Mar 3 Marianne Moore and Elizabeth Bishop
R Mar 5 Langston Hughes and Zora Neale Hurston
T Mar 10 Jean Toomer and Countee Cullen
R Mar 12  **Mid Term Paper due**  
T Mar 17 Spring Break  
R Mar 19 Spring Break  
T Mar 24 Gwendolyn Brooks  
R Mar 26 Carolyn Forche and Jorie Graham  
T Mar 31 Heather McHugh  
R Apr 2 Yusef Komunyakaa  
T Apr 7 Audre Lorde and June Jordan  
R Apr 9 Paula Gunn Allen and Joy Harjo  
T Apr 14 Nuala Ni Dhomhaill and Paul Muldoon  
**R Apr 16 Explication Paper 2 due**  
T Apr 21 Natasha Trethewey  
R Apr 23 Natasha Trethewey  
T Apr 28 Kevin Young  
R Apr 30 Terrance Hayes  
T May 5 – Last Day of Class  

Final Paper due May 8 at 4:00pm.