**Introduction to Poetry with Anna Mills**

**CRN# 74641, Section 001, MWF 10:10-11:00 AM**, **Bungalow 709, Ocean Campus**

**Class Websites**:

1. <http://insight.ccsf.edu> for all assignments and resources.

2. <http://fog.ccsf.edu/amills/poetry.htm> for general information about the class.

**Anna Mills' Email**: amills@ccsf.edu

**Office Hours**: Monday 11-11:30 after class. We may meet in our regular classroom or move to my office, 560 Batmale Hall, Ocean campus.  I will usually be available Fridays after class as well. On Wednesdays I tutor in the English lab from 11:00-12, so you are welcome to accompany me there, sign up, and meet with me on a first-come, first-serve basis.

**Required Materials:**

* ***The Norton Introduction to Poetry***by J. Paul Hunter, ninth edition. A used version is fine, even if it does not include the audio CD. You will need the ninth edition rather than an earlier edition. ISBN 0-393-92857-8.
* **Regular internet access**.  You will be expected to check email and log in to the class Insight website regularly and will complete many assignments online.

**Overview**

Simply put, I want this to be a fun and stimulating class in which you become a more sensitive reader and discover many poems you can love. We will explore the meanings and techniques of poetry through class and group discussion, online resources, and guest speakers.

Why I am I teaching the class? I was named for a great grandmother, Hannah, who wrote poetry in Yiddish while she let the soup burn on the stove. My grandfather loved to read rhyming poetry out loud to us, and my mother taught poetry to fourth and fifth graders for forty years. I grew up with a love of poetry from all these sources, and I started writing poems and memorizing poems as a child.

Not only do I love poems in themselves, but I love the process of looking closely at words, phrases, and poetic choices to discover insight, nuance, and complexity. I believe that class discussion and individual reflection on poetry is a wonderful way to develop your analytical skills and overall sophistication as a college student.

**Course Description**

Departmental MAJOR LEARNING OUTCOMES for Introduction to Poetry at City College

Upon completion of this course, a student will be able to

A. Analyze and discuss critically a wide range of poetry from contemporary to canonical.

B. Discuss and analyze the functions of poetry in differing historical and cultural contexts.

C. Apply literary criticism and diverse approaches to poetry.

D. Recognize and evaluate the effectiveness of different poetic forms, structures, elements of the art form, and appropriate literary terminology.

E. Apply an understanding of form and style by writing imitations and original poems.

F. Articulate extensive analytical responses to the material through discussion and written explications that involve a synthesis learning outcomes A through D.

**Grading**

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| * + Forum posts (weekly paragraph-long responses to assigned poems): 35%
	+ 4-page analysis of a poem: 25%
	+ 3-page final project:  20%
	+ Homework: 20%
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* Note: You may also choose to take this class credit/no credit.
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**Forums**

Students will write **one forum post per week** on Insight responding to an assigned poem, reading, guest speakers, or video of a poetry performance.

Forum posts must be a full paragraph of **200 words** or more for full credit.

Grading: Forum posts will should be thoughtful and show understanding of the poem or text or stylistic concept in question. They should include one or more specific references to the poem or text such as a quotation of a phrase or line. They should be cohesive, a connected series of thoughts, not a disjointed list of random observations. Finally, they should engage readers in a lively way, perhaps by offering a question or a comment that is surprising, challenging, emotional, personal, or otherwise fresh and compelling. I encourage you to use them as an opportunity to develop an authentic voice as a critical reader.

You are allowed to **miss one forum post** all semester without any affect on your forum grade.

**Homework**

Your homework grade will be based on assignments such as the following:

* Comments on other students’ forum posts,
* Margin notes or annotation of assigned readings
* Occasional announced or unannounced **quizzes.**
* Imitations of particular poetic forms and styles

 **Deadlines**

Late papers are accepted up to one week late, but they are graded down.

 Late forum posts are **not** accepted for credit. You are allowed to miss forum post in the course of the semester without any affect on your blog grade. If you miss more than that, see me.

Late homework is **not** accepted for credit. However, there is no need to email homework or essays to me if you miss class. **Any papers you would have handed in are due the day you return.** They are not considered late. You are responsible for keeping track of what you miss.

**Extra Credit Options**

1) Each time you meet with a tutor in the [English lab](http://www.ccsf.edu/Departments/English/labpage/englishlab.html), you will receive a **2.5% boost to your homework average**.  This means that if you meet with a tutor four times, you will raise your homework grade by one letter grade. You can meet with a tutor to discuss a poem or improve a forum post, brainstorm ideas for a paper, organize a draft, or polish grammar.

2) Read a poem to the class. Once during the semester, if you would like to share a favorite piece of writing no longer than five minutes and explain why you chose it, I will give extra credit. Let me know ahead of time when you would like to read.

**Attendance**

I will allow **6 absences only** during this semester, which you should save for doctor’s appointments, illnesses, and emergencies.  After 6 your grade will go down a letter grade with each absence.

If you miss a class for whatever reason you are still responsible for everything that went on in class or was handed out.  **Email or call a fellow student and check the class website**. Any homework you missed is due on the day you return.

**Lateness:** Class begins after the ten minute passing period.  Please be prompt.  If you arrive after I take roll at the beginning of class or if you leave early, you will receive a **partial absence** according to the amount of time you miss.

**Plagiarism**

As you probably know, plagiarism means presenting someone else’s words or ideas as your own.  It is a serious academic offense which carries severe consequences.  It can happen accidentally as well as intentionally. In this class, you are responsible for understanding what plagiarism is and for avoiding it in your papers.

**The Four-Word Rule:** **Plagiarism means using four or more words in a row from another person’s writing without putting those words in quotation marks.**

Please note: even if you mention the author and page number, a string of words is still plagiarism if you do not put it in quotation marks.

Any work handed in that contains plagiarism, whether it is accidental or intentional, will **automatically receive a ZERO.  That is worse than an F (an F is 50% credit) and makes it very difficult to pass the class.**

Please [read this handout on plagiarism from the CCSF library](http://www.ccsf.edu/Library/instruct/plagiarism.html) and then see me if you have any questions about what plagiarism is or how to avoid it.

**Disabilities and Learning Differences**

Several of my best students have told me about their learning disabilities.  They have advocated for themselves, taken advantage of the support services on campus, and earned excellent grades. If you have a disability, you may not realize how much is available and how many rights you have.  Make sure to register with the DSPS Department so you can get **documentation of your disability** and request appropriate accommodations such as extended time on tests or a notetaker. Contact me about accommodations during the first week of the semester so that we can make arrangements.

If you wonder whether or not you have a learning disability, you can meet with a counselor at the Disabled Students Programs and Services Department (DSPS) in Rosenberg 323 to discuss your questions and possibly receive free testing.

Whether or not you have a disability, you can get individualized help with class work, time management, and learning strategies through the DSPS Strategy Lab or the Academic Assistance Program.  See me for more information or stop by Batmale 231 and speak with Vivien Mun.

**Getting My Help**

I am happy to talk or email about any question or concern you have about the class.  **If you can attend my office hours, do so!**  I am also happy to arrange a meeting at another time. A face-to-face conversation is always helpful, but email works well too. I usually respond quickly, so feel free to write to me at amills@ccsf.edu.

I like to learn from my students and understand perspectives different from my own, so I want to know what you really think even if I don’t agree with you. Also, I often make changes to my courses based on student feedback. If you have comments or suggestions, please let me know.

**Welcome to Class!**