

Gabarit du cours

Sigle du cours : ANG1001

Titre du cours : Reading Poetry

Trimestre : Automne 2020

Titulaire du cours : Prof. Jane Malcolm

Coordonnées : jane.malcolm@umontreal.ca

1. Objectifs et contenu du cours :

How do we read poetry? Do we read it at all? Our present moment has seen language and text transformed, contorted, redacted, and reduced into increasingly smaller pieces of informational code, and poetry—which, even before the alphabet, WAS literature—arguably has become a niche genre, written and read by the few. Or has it? What if we imagine that poetry today is as viable an expression of culture, philosophy, politics, personality, and the vitality of language as it was during the Renaissance? This course aims to enliven the poetic genre and dispense with any skepticism about its difficulty or elitism. Poetry, *the act*, and poetics, *the theory behind that act*, are as vital as ever. We will read from the beginnings of poetry in English—which sets the stage for hotly debated formal traditions—to the present, in which poets continue to reinvigorate older verse structures, even as they create new and radical poetic languages and experiments. Our class meetings will include a combination of recorded lectures and Zoom meetings for discussion and elaboration (exact time to be determined).

2. Liste (provisoire) des textes à l'étude :

We will read poems around specific themes including « Poetry and Difficulty » « The Sonnet » « Poetry of Urban Decay » « Romantic Poetry » « Metaphysical Poetry » « Poetry of the Singular/Lyric 'I' » « Poetry of the Everyday » « Modernist Poetry » « Documentary Poetry » and « Experimental and Conceptual Poetry » Poets to be read include : Claudia Rankine, Charles Bernstein, Grand Master Flash, Shakespeare, John Donne, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Ted Berrigan, Bernadette Mayer, Amiri Baraka, Robert Herrick, Andrew Marvell, Arthur Rimbaud, William Blake, Allen Ginsburg, Laura Riding, Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, William Carlos Williams, Gertrude Stein, T.S. Eliot, Wallace Stevens, Muriel Rukeyser, Langston Hughes, Frank O'Hara, Lyn Hejinian, Hugo Ball, and many others... All poems will be made available on Studium.

3. Organisation du cours (facultatif) :

Our class meetings will include a combination of recorded lectures and weekly Zoom discussions (exact time on Wednesdays to be determined).

4. Modalités d'évaluation prévues :

Weekly informal journal entries (30%); midterm exam with short essay (30%); final exam with short essay (40%).