

Hiver 2023  
ANG 2001: Poetry and Poetics  
W 9h-12h  
Prof. Jane Malcolm  
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C-8120, Pavillon Lionel-Groulx  
Office hours: By appointment

This course will dive profoundly into the history of poetic debates from antiquity to the present, exploring simultaneously the treatises, tracts, manifestoes, and foundational essays that establish and define anglophone poetic movements (their aesthetic and political priorities) and the poetry that emerges from these movements. Beginning with Plato's radical assertion that poets should be banned from the Republic and continuing forward to the present moment, via the conceptual and the experimental, we will examine the impulse to establish rules and order around poetry (arguably the most liberatory genre) as well as the contradictions, inconsistencies and ironies amongst poetry's philosophical texts (or poetics) that see poets and critics attempting again and again to describe/inscribe poetry and its readers, negotiate its limits and possibilities, and defy tradition, while (re)turning to constraint as a pillar of composition. As much as possible, we will study poetics statements and poems alongside one another, and we will read poems that are themselves statements on form, manifestoes, and or embody/agitate for a particular poetics or politics.