

ELIT 11: Introduction to Poetry

Spring Quarter 2024

Instructor: Jill Quigley

Class: Thursdays 11:30-1:20, MLC 105

Office Hours: Mondays and Tuesdays 11-12 and Wednesdays 12-1 via Zoom (**Recurring Meeting ID 227 088 6794** and Passcode: **33** in my Zoom Personal Meeting Room), or message me anytime via Canvas for an appointment.

Contact Info: Canvas message is my preferred contact method, or you can also email me anytime.

Email: quigleyjill@fhda.edu

Course Description:

ELIT 11 is 4 unit literature course focused on the intensive study of poetry from diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives. Poetry is the “clear expression of mixed feelings” as W.H. Auden claims, so the way in which poetry expresses universal human truths is distinct, wildly individual, and often illusive. In this course, you will learn about poetic devices, literary history, and critical theory to provide analytical context for your personal responses to the poems. Jose Garcia Villa claims that poetry is “an angel with a gun in its hand” and that captures the exciting way in which we’ll examine the amazement of language this quarter. Poetry has the ability to create revolution and inspire love—sometimes at the same time. Emily Dickinson famously claimed that the experience of reading poetry is as though the top of your head was physically taken off. Poetry blows minds. And I know no better way of describing it.

Suggested Prerequisite:

Eligibility is recommended through the successful completion of EWRT 1A.

Course Objectives:

1. Learn how to “read” poetry—literally, figuratively, and critically.
2. Interpret a variety of poems from different historical and literary periods.
3. Examine poems by poets diverse in background and style.
4. Understand and appreciate the distinctive qualities of voice, tone, persona, irony, diction, allegory, metaphor, imagery, sound, and a variety of poetic structural forms.

5. Analyze, evaluate, and employ current approaches in literary criticism as they relate to poetry. Apply theoretical lenses: Feminist, Psychoanalytic, Queer, Deconstructionist, Post-Colonial.
6. Learn the poetic voice, politics, and philosophy of a variety of literary movements.
7. Develop literary and social-historical awareness—a recognition of how the past has shaped the present.
8. Relate various literary and social movements to yourself and your surroundings, and explore the contribution of texts to the human experience: culture and consciousness.
9. Acknowledge and account for alternate textual interpretations.
10. Examine the changing perspectives of poetry and the current discussions and debates over the social construction of values in a 2024 academic scope.

Course Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Identify, articulate, and evaluate poetic texts in English and in translation ranging from classical to contemporary and employing a variety of styles and techniques.
2. Analyze poems in writing from multiple critical and cultural perspectives.

Required Texts:

All other course texts will be provided on our Canvas course *except* one *collection* of poems--of your choice--for the Poetry Collection Presentation & Visual Essay.

Assignments: (500 points total)

1. Quizzes: **100 points**
2. Discussion Posts: **100 Points**
3. Mid-Term Exam: **100 points**
4. Poetry Collection Presentation & Visual Essay: **50 points**
5. Final Exam: **100 points**
6. Class Participation: (weekly attendance and engagement in person and on Canvas, in-class writing exercises, group work, and extra credit): **50 points**

Grade Scheme*:

This class uses the standard De Anza Letter Grade Scheme.

A (100% to 94%)

A- (94% to 90%)

B+ (90% to 87%)

B (87% to 84%)

B- (84% to 80%)

C+ (80% to 77%)

C (77% to 74%)

C- (74% to 70%)

F (69% and below)**I don't give D-range grades for final grades since they are passing but NOT transferable and bring your GPA down drastically. Instead, it's better to get an F and retake the class so the new grade eclipses the F whereas you cannot retake a class if you got a D.*

Attendance and Participation:

Attendance is required for our weekly in-person lectures and Canvas course engagement is required each week via discussion posts or assignments. Your class presence is essential to your success. Please don't disappear. **If you don't attend our first class or complete the first assignment, I will assume you are NOT in the course and give your spot to a waitlisted student by the end of the first week of instruction.** ELIT 11 participation includes being prepared by reading the weekly course content and sharing your real-time ideas in class. To succeed, you must remain engaged in the classroom community—individually or collectively, but always consistently. I take attendance and call on students because I want them to know I see them and that their presence is valuable. **In addition to these factors, your course participation grade is calculated via Canvas data of your pages viewed and hours logged in our course.**

Student-Centered Classroom:

Be prepared for every class by reading the assigned content and reviewing the Canvas module because the class will involve sharing your ideas within the classroom discussion space and with your peers in breakout rooms. This doesn't work if you haven't done the reading and don't know what's going on. Since ELIT 11 is a student-centered class, it will be clear if you haven't done the reading. Plus the reading is cool and class is more fun (and productive) when everyone can share individual ideas against the backdrop of the lectures and curriculum. The good news about literature is there's rarely "one right answer" so we can play, debate, analyze, create, and figure

out how we feel within the academic atmosphere of exciting learning. Pro-tip: reading is the key to writing. I promise you some cool readings to ignite our discussions. With a mind's eye to a student-centered classroom environment, please use [our class Q&A open discussion space](#) as a resource throughout the quarter. :)

Classroom Environment:

Consider this classroom a safe space, and please do your part to keep it safe. My job is to create a container for deep intellectual inquiry and emotional expansion—none of which happens without safety. I am both the bouncer and the hostess of this space. You are invited to share your ideas and express yourself--from the heart and mind--without judgment, and I will do my part to keep the inspiration flowing with cool content and ideas. If anything is unclear, feel free to ask. Probably other students have the same question. In this course, we will discuss many sensitive topics regarding race, gender, and sexuality—and the cumulative Now-ness of 20/24's vision. Everybody in this class has a right to be heard. Please be mindful that each person brings a different perspective based on their own experience. If you wish to counter a specific argument or claim, you must do so intelligently and respectfully. When your classmates talk during the discussion, you are asked to respect them with your focused attention and encouragement. Vulnerability and courage are synonymous and key to learning. Remember that our course goal is to learn from each other. With that in mind, be aware of whether you tend to dominate classroom conversations. Although I encourage active participation, it is also important to leave space for others to participate.

Spring Schedule of Important Dates [De Anza Academic Calendar](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

4/8/24: First day of Classes

4/19/24: Last day to Add Classes

4/20/24: Last day to Drop **without** a W

5/25-5/27/24: Memorial Day Weekend (no classes, offices closed)

5/31/24: Last day to Drop **with** a W

6/19/24: Juneteenth Holiday (no classes, offices closed)

6/24-29/24: Final Exams

[De Ana's Policy](#)[Links to an external site.](#) on Academic Integrity:

I am here to help you overcome the difficulties each of you may face as readers and writers and turn those challenges into gifts. Please contact me ahead of time if you are having any difficulties with an assignment, and I will do my best to assist you. Resorting to cheating should NEVER be an option. I am happy to spend time outside of class to help you in any way that I can. **I reserve the right to fail a student if caught plagiarizing an assignment. ChatGPT is considered plagiarism and is not an acceptable tool in substitution for your writing. I can tell the difference, so don't risk failing the assignment for this shortcut. Please note: Exams containing AI-generated writing will receive 69%; students will be invited to a conference with me to discuss the extent of the plagiarism. Plagiarized exams cannot be revised or resubmitted. :)**

Additional Notes and Resources:

- This is an adult-level course; therefore, the language and subject matter of readings, film clips, and discussions will contain adult material and will not be censored. Trigger warnings will be given for any explicit content.
- If grades are important to you, make sure to do all the reading, attend every class and participate actively, expand, research, and synthesize your thinking about the texts in connection to historical and theoretical contexts, and ask questions of me/your classmates/the world around you, study for the exams, turn in all assignments on-time, and be engaged in the community and inquiry of the class. *NOTE: when calculating your grade in Canvas, make sure to INCLUDE *ungraded* assignments in order to get an accurate scope of your final grade. Please adjust your Canvas student preferences. *You can speak to me about your grade at any point during the quarter.*
- **Academic Support: Tutors and Workshops at the Writing and Reading Center (WRC)** <http://www.deanza.edu/studentsuccess/wrc/> [Links to an external site.](#) The WRC has drop-in tutoring both in person (ATC 309) and via Zoom--and weekly workshops. Students who attend an individual tutoring session or one of the workshops will receive extra Participation Points!
- **Disabilities Services:** (<http://www.deanza.edu/dsps/index.html>) [Links to an external site.](#) De Anza College views disability as an important aspect of diversity and is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. Disability Support Services (DSS) is the campus office that collaborates with students who have disabilities to provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations. *If you have, or think you have, a disability in any area such as mental health, attention, learning, chronic health, sensory, or physical, please contact DSS to arrange a confidential discussion regarding equitable access and accommodations. **If you are registered with DSS and have accommodations set by a DSS counselor, please be sure that your instructor has received your accommodation letter from **Clockwork** early in the quarter to review how the

accommodations will be applied in the course. *If you have a disability, we will create a learning environment that works for you. :)

- **Mental Health and Wellness**

Center:[https://www.deanza.edu/psychologicalservices/Links to an external site.](https://www.deanza.edu/psychologicalservices/Links%20to%20an%20external%20site) De Anza's Mental Health and Wellness Center offers a variety of support to all students. You are welcome to **stop by in person**, join an **online support group**, or **drop in for an online session** with a MHW counselor. They also take appointments for **one-on-one sessions**, held online.

I look forward to working with and learning from all of you! My goal is to challenge, support, and inspire you. I will expect great things from you, convince you of your own brilliance, and help you reach your potential in a disciplined, structured environment. :) Please ask me any questions you have about our work.
Jill