

The Art of the Sonnet Sequence



English 3850.04 & 05

2 Sections:

Mondays 4:30-7:30pm (3850.04) GC2880

Monday & Wednesday 1:25-2:45pm (3850.05) LNCO 3875

Disa Gambera LNCO 3524

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Office Hours: M 3-4pm and by appointment

Required Texts:

To purchase:

Shakespeare's Sonnets, The Arden Shakespeare, Katherine Duncan-Jones editor

Elizabeth Barrett Browning *Sonnets from the Portuguese*, Dover editions

Ted Berrigan, *The Sonnets*, Penguin

Terrance Hayes, *American Sonnets for My Past and Future Assassin*, Penguin

These books will be available at the Campus Store

In PDF format:

Selections from the sonnet sequences of Petrarch, Sidney, Mary Wroth, Edna St Vincent-Millay, Adrienne Rich, Wanda Coleman and others.

Course Description:

This course will be an exploration of sonnets and sonnet sequences and how to write on them. We will meander chronologically through some of the major sonnet sequences by Dante, Petrarch, Sidney, Shakespeare, Lady Mary Wroth, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Edna St Vincent Millay, Ted Berrigan, Adrienne Rich and Terrance Hayes. I will lecture when necessary (which won't be often), but most of the course will be spent in conversation about the poems assigned for each day. In sheer volume the reading may seem light, but I expect you to scrutinize these poems and to read each one repeatedly before coming to class. We will also be reading some criticism and literary theory in order to expand our conceptions of how to interpret both individual sonnets as well as entire sequences. My goal is to make you all careful yet imaginative readers of sonnets and sonnet sequences.

Required Work:

Careful, thorough reading; excellent attendance (more than 2 unexcused absences or repeated lateness will result in a lower final grade); 3 short essays of 2-3 pages and a longer essay of 5-6 pages. *All 4 essays must be completed in order to pass the class.* There will also be frequent CANVAS discussions, and some in-class writing exercises. As part of the discussion component of the course I will expect you to come to class thoroughly prepared and with questions and topics for discussion.

Grading values: Papers 1-3 (30%); Canvas Discussions (30%); final paper (20%); attendance (20%* but see my policy below).

Some course policies:

1. Attendance is **required** for passing this class. Anyone who misses 4 classes in the Monday evening course or 8 in the M/W course will automatically fail the course.
2. Come to class prepared to discuss the day's reading and **BRING THE DAY'S READING** to each class meeting.
3. I have an electronics free classroom which means you must bring actual books to class as well as printouts of pdf files. Please email me if you have any questions about this.

Paper policies:

1. **Plagiarism Policy:** if you draw on anyone else's writing or thinking in a paper you write, you must indicate this. There are forms for indicating indebtedness, but if you're not sure of the form, just write me a note. Please speak with me if you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism. **Failure to acknowledge material written by others is a serious academic offense and will result in a failing grade for the entire course.**
2. **Rewrites:** if you want to rewrite a paper, you are welcome to. You need to speak with me about the rewrite and arrange a due date for it first. You must hand in the rewrite along with the original paper with my comments. I will grade the rewrite as a new paper, and if the grade is higher than the original grade I will replace it. In general, grades on rewrites do not go up unless

you substantially rework the argument and presentation of the paper. Making editorial changes and revising a few sentences will not give you a higher grade. You need to have something you really want to *do* with the revision for it to be successful.

4. **Alternate Due date policy:** I am very generous about papers handed in after the official due date as long as you inform me ahead of time. If you are going to hand in a paper late you **MUST** notify me at least 24 hours in advance and give me an alternate due date (usually 2-3 days later) for the paper. If you hand in work late without notifying me in advance, I will not accept it (barring some extreme emergency). E-mail is fine for letting me know that you need extra time.

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the instructor and the Center for Disability Services, 581-5020 (Voice or TDD) to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information for this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification.