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Spring, 2015 / Secrets of Poetic Craft  
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Tuesday E1-E3 (7:20-10:10 pm)  
CBD 224

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4211-H Turlington (Tuesday, 2-4 pm)

“The whole frame of the Poem is a beating out of a piece of gold, but the last clause is as the impression of the stamp, and that it is that makes it currant.”  
—John Donne

There are matters of poetic craft rarely talked about, aspects of form often unnoticed but not beneath notice. My presumption will be that letting cats out of bags or dragging assassins from shadows will in no way harm our understandings—we may even become more sensitive to the choices in verse that have meaning, or force meaning, or embarrass words into meaning, however often we make such choices unconsciously.

In our weekly seminar, we will first discuss the readings with a selection of poems that bear upon them. Over the course of the semester, each student will give a presentation (fifteen minutes or shorter) on one of the topics, using these readings and expanding upon them. The second half of each class will be a poetry workshop, concentrating more than is usual on the craft matters raised in the course. Six poems will be assigned, one every other week, due one week later. These will be discussed in the weeks following, usually four an evening.

#### @> Logistics

Every two weeks I'll make a writing assignment. Assignments vary from the straightforward to the perverse. I am immune to excuses for late assignments, however ingenious. Late assignments will otherwise be marked down, 25% per day.

It's a prerequisite of the course that you buy the books. Failure to complete the readings or to engage in discussion is a sign of lack of interest in your grade. You can buy the books at the campus book store or on the web.

#### @> Discussions

You're responsible for reading the prose assignments and the worksheet in advance of class, making notes upon them, and bringing them with you. Copious notes. The quick wit, intelligence, and charm of your analysis will be appreciated by all. Use of laptops during class is forbidden. If your cell phone rings, you owe everyone cake or cookies.

©> Notebooks

The week after I receive your assignment, I'll hand it back with suggestions. These annotated assignments should be collected in a file folder, due on April 20 (the Friday before the last week of class), accompanied by new revisions of all poems, and a revised version of your presentation, a paper no longer than 3000 words. There are no exams.

©> Grades

(1) After reading your brilliantly revised portfolios, I'll give each poem a mark of 1 to 10 (these are chili-pepper grades, from ultra mild to red hot). Poems will be worth 60% of the grade. (2) Your paper/presentation will be worth 30% of the grade. (3) Class participation, awarded 0 to 10 additional points, will be worth 10% of the grade. I'm not able to reward mere chatter, but I'm sure that you'll always respond to the poems and the opinions of others in a deft and polite and witty manner.

©> Absences

You may have two absences for any reason, no matter how whimsical; but you must notify me in advance. Email me to do so. Each uncleared absence (or lateness over ten minutes) and each additional absence will result in loss of half a letter grade for the term. I'm available for conferences Tuesday afternoons or by appointment if that time is impossible due to a scheduled class.

TEXTS:

R. S. Gwynn, Contemporary American Poetry  
A. F. Scott, The Poet's Craft

B. J. Pendlebury, The Art of the Rhyme  
Barbara Herrnstein Smith, Poetic Closure

week

1 (January 6) Introduction and Baptism by Fire

2 (January 13) Titles

3 (January 20) Beginnings

4 (January 27) Voice and Tense

5 (February 3) Particles, articles, prepositions

6 (February 10) Enjambment

7 (February 17) Punctuation

8 (February 24) Metaphor 1

9 (March 3) SPRING BREAK

10 (March 10) Metaphor 2

11 (March 17) Rhyme 1

12 (March 24) MOVIE NIGHT

RESEARCH PAPER WEEK

13 (March 31) Rhyme 2

14 (April 7) Endings

15 (April 14) Revisions

(NOTEBOOKS DUE Friday, April 17)

16 (April 21) Final pronouncements

It may be necessary for the instructor to be absent one evening. Warning shall be given!

## UF Policies

### Classroom Behavior:

Every student in this class is expected to participate in a responsible and mature manner that enhances education. Any conduct that disrupts the learning process may lead to disciplinary action. Because this course requires much contact, collaboration, and dialogue among students, it is essential that each student work to create an environment of respect and tolerance. Please keep in mind that students come from diverse cultural, economic, and ethnic backgrounds. Some of the readings we will discuss and write about engage controversial topics and opinions. Diversified student backgrounds combined with provocative texts require that you demonstrate respect for ideas that may differ from your own. Disrespectful behavior will result in dismissal, and accordingly absence, from the class. See <http://www.aa.ufl.edu/aa/affact/harass/>  
Turn off your cell phone before class.

### Academic Dishonesty:

All work should be individual. Evidence of collusion (working with someone not connected to the class or assignment), plagiarism (use of someone else's published or unpublished words or design without acknowledgment) or multiple submissions (submitting the same paper in different courses) will lead to the Department's and the University's procedures for dealing with academic dishonesty. All students are expected to honor their commitment to the university's Honor Code [available online at <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html>].

Plagiarism is a serious violation of the student academic honor code. You commit plagiarism when you present the ideas or words of someone else as your own.

If a student "plagiarizes" all or any part of any assignment, I will award him or her a failing grade on the assignment. Additionally, University policy suggests that, as a MINIMUM, instructors should impose a course grade penalty and report any incident of academic dishonesty to the Office of the Dean of Students. You should know that your work might be tested for its "originality" against a wide variety of databases by anti-plagiarism guardian sites to which the University subscribes, and negative reports from such sites constitute PROOF of plagiarism. Other forms of academic dishonesty will also result in a failing grade on the assignment as a minimum penalty. Examples include cheating on a quiz or citing phony sources or quotations to include in your assignments. Remember, you are responsible for understanding the University's definitions of plagiarism and academic dishonesty, which include the following:

Submitting all or part of someone else's work as if it is your own.

"Borrowing," without crediting the source, any of the following:

- o Any part of song lyrics, poetry, or movie scripts
- o Any part of another person's essay, speech or ideas
- o Any part of an article in a magazine, journal, newspaper
- o Any part of a book, encyclopedia, CD-ROM, online "www" page, etc.
- o Any idea from another person or writer, even if you express that idea in your own words.

Borrowing" verbatim text without enclosing in quotation marks and citing the source.

Making "duplicate submissions" of assignments – that is, submitting work in one class that you also submit in another class.

"Collaborating" or receiving substantive help in writing your assignment unless such collaboration is part of the given assignment. (However, you may receive general advice from tutors, writing lab instructors, or OWL staff.)

Failing to cite sources, or citing them improperly.

**Important Tip:** You should never copy and paste something from the Internet without providing the exact location from which it came.

### Students with Disabilities:

The University of Florida complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students requesting accommodation should contact the Students with Disabilities Office, Peabody 202. That office will provide documentation to the student whom must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.