

LIT 4930 Section S216

Rhetoric in Contemporary Poetry

Monday Period 9-11 (4:05 pm - 7:05 pm)

Anderson 0019

Professor Ange Mlinko

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Office Hours: Tuesday 2 pm - 3:30 pm in Turlington 4211-E, or by appointment on Zoom

Required Texts (Physical copy required)

Moy Sand and Gravel by Paul Muldoon

The Wild Iris by Louise Glück

The Living Weapon by Rowan Ricardo Phillips

Rain by Don Paterson

PDF packets (uploaded to Canvas each week)

Recommended Texts:

The Craft of Poetry by Lucy Newlyn

Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics (available online through Library West)

The Oxford English Dictionary (via UF VPN: oed.com)

Recommended web resources: poetryfoundation.org Poem Guides and [Glossary of Poetic Terms](#).

What is rhetoric?

Rhetoric is the art of persuasive writing, using a rich array of tropes (or “devices”) that play on our senses, our wit, and our emotions. While prosody usually distinguishes poetry from prose, the use of devices such as metaphor, metonym, apophasis and irony work to compress meanings and heighten poetic effects even in the absence of traditional rhyme and meter. We say, in such cases, that a poet’s use of this or that trope is *striking*, *startling*, *surprising*, *fresh*—but also true to life.

What will we read?

Rhetoric has a history going back to the ancient Greeks and Romans, but the emphasis of this course falls on the poetry; that is, poems are not used as examples of rhetoric as such; rather, the tropes will be treated as the servants of the poetry. Therefore we will rely on the definitions of tropes given in the *Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics*, and we will look at examples from the recommended text *The Craft of Poetry* as well as PDF packets that I will upload weekly. Occasionally I will provide essays on tropes, also via PDF. We will read four contemporary poetry collections that exemplify the virtues of these tropes.

What will we write?

Each week focuses on a different trope: I will discuss it, with examples from PDF packets, and you will write a loose sonnet using that trope.

You will also write a 400-500 word response paper on each poetry collection, focusing on the poet’s use of *striking* tropes.

You will write a 1500-word final paper on poetry and tropes, focusing on a close reading of at least two poems.

Finally, you will memorize one poem for recitation on the last day of class.

What is a loose sonnet?

A loose sonnet is 14 lines of roughly isometric length (either 8, 10, or 12 syllables per line), with the linebreaks occurring at natural conversational pauses, where you would normally put a comma, semi-colon, colon, dash, or period. Do not try to rhyme! You don't have to be "poetic." You can look at this as an exercise in taming prose into 14 lines.

I will be lenient on point-deduction for the first few assignments, but gradually I will demand more of you: proper syllable or stress count; proper enjambment, creativity and discernment in your use of tropes.

How do I submit my assignment?

You will submit an electronic file in .doc or .docx to Canvas every Sunday by 6 pm, and you will **also** bring two paper copies of poems to class (one to give to me, one to swap with a neighbor for in-class exercise). You need only bring one paper copy of your response papers to hand in.

Your electronic file should be submitted as your LastName_Trope (e.g. Smith_Metaphor).

All written work must be submitted as single-spaced, left-aligned, 12 pt serif font. All sonnets and papers must be titled. Your name and the assigned trope should appear in the top right corner of the page. Sonnets must employ correct spelling and grammar and be written in complete sentences; fragments should only be used with intention and purpose.

Schedule

Date	Discussion	Assignment
Jan 10	Introduction to tropes; Metaphor	Acquire texts for class—physical copy only; write a sonnet deploying metaphor
Jan 17	Martin Luther King Day: No class	
Jan 24	Workshop metaphor sonnets; Introduction to Metonym	Write a metonymic sonnet; read Phillips and write a response paper on metaphor and metonym in <i>Living Weapon</i>
Jan 31	Workshop metonym sonnets; Discussion: <i>Living Weapon</i> by Rowan Ricardo Phillips	
Feb 7	Introduction to Apophysis	Write an apophatic sonnet

Date	Discussion	Assignment
Feb 14	Workshop apophatic sonnets; Introduction to Irony and Paradox	Write a sonnet deploying irony and/or paradox; response paper on apophasis and irony in Paterson's <i>Rain</i>
Feb 21	Workshop irony sonnets; Discussion: <i>Rain</i> by Don Paterson	
Feb 28	Introduction to Apostrophe and Prosopopoeia	Write one sonnet using apostrophe, another sonnet using prosopopoeia
Mar 7	Spring Break	
Mar 14	Workshop apostrophe/prosopopoeia sonnets; Introduction to Anaphora	Write a sonnet using anaphora; response paper on apostrophe, prosopopoeia, and anaphora in Glück's <i>The Wild Iris</i>
Mar 21	Workshop anaphora sonnets; Discussion: <i>The Wild Iris</i> by Louise Glück	
Mar 28	Introduction to Paranomasia	Write a sonnet using paranomasia
Apr 4	Workshop paranomasia sonnets; Introduction to Simile and Cliché	Write a sonnet using similes OR subverting clichés; response paper on simile or cliché in Muldoon's <i>Moy Sand and Gravel</i>
Apr 11	Workshop simile/cliché sonnets; Discussion: <i>Moy Sand and Gravel</i> by Paul Muldoon	
Apr 18	Portfolios, Papers, and Recitation due	

Policies and Protocols:

1. This is a seminar, not a lecture course, so your grade will reflect your presence and participation.
2. Class Participation is 50% of your total grade. To maintain your points you must come prepared with all materials: your own poems and papers, plus my PDF packets and assigned texts. Non-participation will result in a deduction in points.
3. Late work, unless accompanied by a doctor's note, will receive a 10-point deduction. All work must be handed to me on paper.
4. Cell phones should be silenced and out of sight.
5. Attendance: UF's attendance policies state that a student who misses more than 6 class periods automatically fails a course. Each of our course meetings is equal to three class periods. Therefore, if you miss more than two class meetings you will automatically fail. This policy is for unexcused absences, and does not apply excused absences. Absences are only excused with a doctor's note. Click here for UF's attendance policies: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>
6. Being tardy or missing materials 3 times = 1 absence

Point Break Down

Assignment	Points	Total
13 classes (attendance)	77 points each	1001 (50% of grade)
9 Sonnets	27.7 points each	250
4 Response Papers	62.5 points each	250
1 Final Paper	400 pts	400
1 Recitation from memory	100 pts	100
	Total Possible Points: 2001	

Grading Rubric

A = 94-100 A- = 90-93 B+ = 87-89 B = 84-86 B- = 80-83 C+ = 77-79 C = 73-76 C- = 70-72
D+ = 67-69 D = 63-66 D- = 60-62 E = 0-59

Criteria for Grading Papers

"A"- A paper at this level is truly high quality. It demonstrates a clear understanding of critical concepts, creatively addresses the subject matter, and exceeds the expectations of critical analysis. A paper with this grade will be free of grammatical errors.

"B"- A paper with this grade has met the standards of the assignment at a high quality level. This assignment may need revision but is organized in a logical way and avoids fallacies or mistakes in critical analysis. A paper with this grade may contain grammatical errors but will be readable.

"C"- A paper that earns a "C" has done everything that was required, but no more. This assignment may require significant revision to more thoroughly examine critical elements, or it may need reorganization. A paper with this grade will generally contain a few grammatical errors but will still be readable.

"D"- This paper does not adequately fulfill the assignment to a satisfactory degree. One portion of an assignment may not have been touched upon or there may be a misused critical element. Papers with this grade tend to be disorganized and contain many grammatical errors.

"E"- This paper does not address the assignment prompt or is unreadable/incomplete.

University-Specific Policies

1. *UF's policy on Sexual Harassment:* The University of Florida is committed to providing a safe educational, working, and residential environment that is free from sexual harassment or misconduct directed towards any and all members of the community:
2. *Recordings:* Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. A "class lecture" is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical

presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session. Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

3. *Academic Honesty and Definition of Plagiarism.* UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge: “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: ‘On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.’” The Honor Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. UF Student Honor Code: A Student must not represent as the Student’s own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:
 - a. Stealing, misquoting, insufficiently paraphrasing, or patch-writing.
 - b. Self-plagiarism, which is the reuse of the Student’s own submitted work, or the simultaneous submission of the Student’s own work, without the full and clear acknowledgment and permission of the Faculty to whom it is submitted.
 - c. Submitting materials from any source without proper attribution.
 - d. Submitting a document, assignment, or material that, in whole or in part, is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment the Student did not author.
4. Students with *disabilities* who are requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu/>), which will provide appropriate documentation to give your instructor early in the semester.
5. *Students who are in distress* or who are in need of counseling or urgent help: please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352-392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to you. UF’s Counseling and Wellness Center offers additional support: 352-392-1575, or contact them online: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>
6. For information on UF Grading policies, see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>
7. *Grade Appeals.* In 1000- and 2000-level courses, students may appeal a final grade by filling out a form available from Carla Blount, Program Assistant, in the Department office (4008 TUR). Please contact Ms. Blount at cblount@ufl.edu Grade appeals may result in a higher, unchanged, or lower final grade.
8. *Course Evaluations.* Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations. Toward the end of the semester, you will receive email messages requesting that you do this online: <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>

COVID Statement:

If you suspect that you may have been exposed to COVID, please report for testing immediately and observe an obligatory quarantine period. You should also report to me immediately so that you may arrange to continue your coursework.

During our face-to-face encounters in-class and in-person office hours, while it is not required, it is expected that students and faculty wear face coverings as advised by the CDC.

Please continue to check the University’s updates moving forward throughout the semester: <https://coronavirus.ufl.edu/university-updates/>

