

OBJECTIVES

This course is loosely modeled after Robert Pinsky's "Favorite Poem Project" which he founded during his tenure as US Poet Laureate. What Pinsky asked people to do was simply (or not so simply) share their favorite poem and comment on his or her connection to the poem.

In addition, we will explore the rising popularity of online/social media poets and the validity/credibility of their work.

Although we will study the poems thematically, the course will also serve as a survey of major movements, poets, and poems of the twentieth and twenty-first century. We will read, discuss, and write about these significant poets and poems as well as the major social, political and psychological ideas of our times. But most importantly we will see why poetry matters to so many people and how it is a passionate part of the life of everyday people not just teachers, scholars and poets.

By the end of the semester, it is my hope that your exposure to important poets and poems from Contemporary Poetry will be memorable and meaningful, and that we, as a class, will be able to answer the fundamental question: What makes good poetry today?

AUTHORS WE WILL EXPLORE

It is impossible to list all of the authors we will explore here, as poetry is a breathing entity, and I find new poems/poets every day. All of our poetry is contemporary, meaning, 1970-present day. ALL of our poems are from vetted sources such as poetryfoundation.org, poets.com and a variety of databases and anthologies. SOME of the poets we will examine are: Maya Angelou, Audre Lorde, Amanda Gorman, Sharon Olds, Alice Walker, Margaret Atwood, Joyce Carol Oats, Sherman Alexie, Pages Matman, James Fitzpatrick and additional contemporary poets. Our primary texts will be the anthology, *An Invitation to Poetry*, by Robert Pinsky and *Fooling With Words*.

UNITS / PROJECTS / THEMES TO BE COMPLETED

--Introduction: "An Invitation to Poetry" and "Favorite Poem Project"

--Possible Unit Themes to be covered:

Social Awareness/Justice	Things	Nature
Childhood/Parents	Identity (name, ancestry, heritage)	Love
Time/Life	Loss/Death	War/Peace

--Project 1: Poetry Portfolio (Q1 & Q2)

--Project 2: Journal Reflections and Low Stakes poetry writing (Q1 & Q2)

--Project 3: Favorite Poem Project & Class Anthology (Q1 & Q2)

--Project 4: Analytical paper (Q2)

--Project 5: Oral Presentations on Poetry from your Portfolio (Q2)

MORE INFORMATION TO COME ON EACH PROJECT AND UNIT.

Individual reading material and schedules will be set at the beginning of each unit or project. I will also post the weekly assignments in Google Classroom. This will ensure that you keep up with your assignments in the event of absences, field trips, extracurricular events, etc. Plan Ahead!!!

REQUIREMENTS & RESPONSIBILITIES**DAILY POEMS**

If you would like to share a poem at the start of class that speaks to you, inspires you or you just love and want to explore together as a class, please email me the night before so I can make copies for everyone!

GRADING

All assessments are based on a point system. Tests, projects, long-term assignments, and critiques are weighted as two assignments. Quizzes and shorter writing assignments are weighted as one assignment.

*Weights are subject to change.

****CP STUDENTS:** CP students will be doing the same assignments but with modifications and will get extensions as needed on daily assignments as well as long term assignments.

YOU WILL NEED A WELL-ORGANIZED NOTEBOOK FOR READING AND CLASS DISCUSSION NOTES. You will need 2 notebooks:

1. A Journal notebook that will be shared with me every few weeks. This notebook is separate from your notes. You need this in class everyday. I will give you more directions on this later.
2. A Reading/Class notes notebook that you keep for yourself. I will NOT be collecting this notebook.
3. A folder for all of your poems/handouts.

It is essential that you stay organized because we will be working on several things at once during the year. You will want to keep handouts (electronic or hard copies) and various assignments within your notes. You don't want to throw anything away during the year, the final assessment will be cumulative. Organize your Google folders the same way - Create a folder for Poetry and think about creating folders within that folder for each unit. Much of the reading material for this class will be photocopies or electronic copies. I will try to print as many of the poems as possible and you will be allowed to write on them, **so you may want a folder to keep them in.**

Be prepared: Please be in class and ready to begin when the bell rings and be prepared with texts, journals, notebooks, homework, pencils, pens, chromebooks, etc. .

Be respectful, be kind, be present: Respect is my number one rule. Please be kind and respectful of your classmates during all full class, small group or extra help meetings. We will be discussing a number of topics and your classmates will have various opinions. Please keep an open mind and be respectful in your responses. I will follow the WRHS policies regarding frequent tardiness or offensive language/behavior.

Keep your graded work: Create a Google folder to save all graded work for the entire year. Not only are these the hard copies of your grades, but the assessments may be helpful when preparing for portfolio work, preparing for exams, and for setting and assessing term goals. If we do have any paper assessments you should keep those as well. You can store any non-electronic material in the classroom if that works for you.

REQUIREMENTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Daily Homework/Journals/Classwork Policy: Homework, journals, and classwork assigned will add up quickly. This includes notes, journals, quick writes, or other written tasks I ask you to complete. These assignments are essential to keep up with the class material we are working on. They are graded on effort more than correctness. If you complete the assignment on time you will earn full credit. If you do not do it you will earn a 0. Because I want you to do the homework, and sometimes we all get a little busy, I will give you ½ credit for homework completed a day late. However, it is your responsibility to show me the work in order to get credit. This is just for daily assignments. See below for information on long-term assignments, due dates, and penalties.

Make Up Policy: All assignments that are assigned previous to your absence must be turned in or completed upon your return. **HOWEVER, long term assignments such as writing assignments, major projects and presentations are due on the due date assigned whether you are present in school that day or not.** Assignments handed in late will be penalized 10 points for each day it is late. Make-ups for those assignments that are added during your absence will follow the handbook rules. If you miss a quiz that was open notes, the make-up may not be, so be prepared. You are responsible for your own make-up work. I will not continually remind you about missing work. **PLEASE NOTE:** Missing assignments are recorded as zeros in PowerSchool until they are completed.

REQUIREMENTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Google Classroom: Please make sure you check Google Classroom daily - especially if you are absent. It will contain homework assignments, classroom activities and notes, copies of assignment sheets/handouts, quick write prompts, and material for extra credit and/or academic enrichment. We will also be using Google Classroom for announcing and turning in assignments.

Academic Integrity: Please familiarize yourself with the WRHS writing requirements as well as the definition and explanation of plagiarism found in the WRHS Language Manual. Failure to meet the WRHS writing requirements will result in additional mandatory writing courses. Plagiarism will result in a zero on the assignment and/or further administrative action. In addition, review the “VIOLATIONS OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY” of the student handbook. Remember AI is cheating, and it will result in a zero as well as further consequences.

Extra Credit: No individual "extra-credit" assignments will be given to make up for assigned work not properly done. Keep up with daily assignments and see me as soon as you start having problems and you will succeed.

My email address is christine_hicks@wrsd.net. Feel free to email me with questions regarding class/homework or an assignment. In addition, please email at any point you are struggling with any part of class. You may also pass this address onto your parents/guardians. Please know that I'm not online very late in the evening, but if you email me at night, I will get back to asap the next morning.

WRHS Learning Expectations: While mastering core content, it is expected WRHS students will exercise responsible citizenship, communicate effectively, think critically and solve problems, think creatively, collaborate and take an active role in their learning, and use technology effectively.

WRHS Core Values: Citizenship and Responsibility; Collaboration; Communication; Critical Thinking and Problem Solving; Creativity and Innovation

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