

## ENGL 5307 Seminar: Studies and Research Techniques in American Literature: Modern American Poetry

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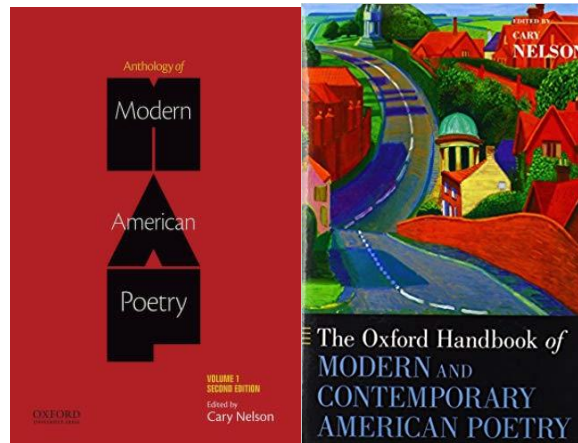
Office: DR Faculty 211  
Office Hrs: T,W,Th 10 – 2  
and by appointment

### Course Description

In ENGL 5307, we will read modern American poetry as well as essays on historical, cultural, and political contexts. We will study and write about formal and thematic features of poetry including the sound qualities that contribute so much to meaning. We will discuss American poetry in regularly scheduled video conferences, write three close readings of poetry, and produce a seminar paper to be presented to the class in a video conference.

### Course Texts

- *Anthology of Modern American Poetry: Volume 1*. 2nd Edition. Ed. Cary Nelson. Oxford University Press, 2014. ISBN-10: 0199920729 ISBN-13: 978-0199920723
- *The Oxford Handbook of Modern and Contemporary American Poetry*. Ed. Cary Nelson. Oxford Handbooks, 2014. ISBN: 9780190204150
- Additional Readings in Blackboard



### ENGL 53076 Course Learning Objectives

Students who successfully complete ENGL 5307 will be able to

1. identify formal and thematic features of modern American poetry
2. analyze a wide variety of modern American poems in terms of form, content, and rhetorical purpose
3. teach lessons on how the sound qualities of poems contribute to meaning
4. apply knowledge about historical, social, and political contexts to analyses of modern American poetry
5. write a sustained and convincing analytical essay about modern American poetry

Activities (aligned to Course Objectives CO)	Date Due	Points out of 100
Video conferences	tba	C/I
Close Readings (three) (CO 1, 2 3)	9/15, 9/29, 10/13	30
Researched Project (CO 5)		
Proposal	9/22	C/I
Annotated Bibliography	10/6	10
Oral Presentation for Feedback	10/26	10
Seminar paper	11/21	20
Formal presentation	week of 12/3	10
Final Exam Essay (CO 1, 2, 3, 4)	12/10	20

### Schedule

Abbreviations: Cary Nelson's *The Oxford Handbook of Modern and Contemporary American Poetry* is referred to as Handbook.

*Anthology of Modern American Poetry*: Volume 1 is referred to as Anthology

Supplemental readings on Blackboard are referred to as Bb

#### Week One 8/26 – 9/1

Cary Nelson "A Century of Innovation" (Handbook 3-52)

*Sound and Sense* Ch 1 defining poetry (1-7), Ch 2 on how to read poetry (8-18), and Ch 3 on denotation and connotation (19-23), (Bb Readings)

Introductions and Scheduling Discussion

#### Week Two 9/3 – 9/8

Cary Nelson "A Century of Innovation" (Handbook 3-52)

*Sound and Sense* Ch 4 on imagery (24-27), Ch 5 & 6 on figurative language (28-45) (Bb Readings)

Selected poetry from the following:

Walt Whitman (Anthology)

Robert Frost (Anthology)

Emily Dickinson (Anthology)

Amy Lowell (Anthology)

Wallace Stevens (Anthology)

William Carlos Williams (Anthology)

T.S. Eliot (Anthology)

#### Week Three 9/10 – 9/15

Close Reading due

*Sound and Sense* Ch 7 on figurative language (46-52), Ch 8 on allusion (53-57) (Bb Readings)

Peter Nicholls "Poetry and Rhetoric: Modernism and Beyond" (Handbook 173-194)

William Carlos Williams (Anthology)

Wallace Stevens (Anthology)

T.S. Eliot (Anthology)

Ezra Pound (Anthology)

#### Week Four 9/17 – 9/22

Proposal for Seminar Paper due

*Sound and Sense* Ch 9 on meaning and idea (58-61), Ch 10 on tone (62-69) (Bb Readings)

Charles Altieri "Cezanne's Ideal of 'Realization': A Useful Analogy for the Spirit of Modernity in American Poetry" (Handbook 195-214)

William Carlos Williams (Anthology)

Wallace Stevens (Anthology)

T.S. Eliot (Anthology)

Ezra Pound (Anthology)

Marianne Moore (Anthology)

**Week Five** 9/24 – 9/29

Close Reading due

*Sound and Sense* Ch 11 on musical devices (70-76) (Bb Readings)

Topic: Resurgence of Multicultural Poetry

Nuyorican Poets' Café (Bb)

Martin Espada (Bb)

Sandra Cisneros (Bb)

Lorna Dee Cervantes (Bb)

Alberto Rios (Bb)

Gary Soto (Bb)

**Week Six** 10/1 – 10/6

Annotated Bibliography due for Seminar Paper

*Sound and Sense* Ch 12 on rhythm and meter (77-86) (Bb Readings)

Melissa Girard "'Jeweled Bindings': Modernist Women's Poetry and the Limits of Sentimentality" (Handbook 96-119)

Louise Bogan (Anthology)

Emily Dickinson (Anthology)

Amy Lowell (Anthology)

Elinor Wylie (Anthology)

Edna St. Vincent Millay (Anthology)

Marianne Moore (Anthology)

**Week Seven** 10/8 – 10/13

Close Reading due

John Timberman Newcomb "Out with the Crowd: Modern American Poets Speaking to Mass Culture" (Handbook 248-267)

William Carlos Williams (Anthology)

Kenneth Fearing (Anthology)

Carl Sandburg (Anthology)

Vachel Lindsay (Anthology)

Muriel Rukeyser (Anthology)

Archibald MacLeish (Anthology)

**Week Eight** 10/15 – 10/20

Edward Brunner "Stepping Out, Sitting In: Modern Poetry's Counterpoint with Jazz and the Blues" (Handbook 215-247)  
Carl Sandburg (Anthology)  
Langston Hughes (Anthology)  
Ellen Coit Elliott (Bb)  
Mina Loy (Anthology)  
Sterling Brown (Anthology)

**Week Nine** 10/22 – 10/27

Jahan Ramazani "American Poetry, Prayer, and the News"  
William Everson (Bb)  
Louise Gluck (Bb)  
James Weldon Johnson (Anthology)  
George Oppen (Anthology)  
Sylvia Plath (Anthology)

**Week of 10/29 – 11/3** I will be at a conference; use this as catch-up time

**Week Ten** 11/5 – 11/10

Student Presentations

**Week Eleven** 11/12 – 11/17

Karen Jackson Ford "The Fight and the Fiddle in Twentieth-Century African American Poetry" (Handbook 369-404)  
Robert Hayden (Bb)  
Gwendolyn Brooks (Bb)  
Paul Laurence Dunbar (Anthology)  
Claude McKay (Anthology)  
Coun tee Cullen (Anthology)

**Week Twelve** 11/19 – 11/21 Thanksgiving Week

James Smethurst "'Internationally Known': The Black Arts Movement and U.S. Poetry in the Age of Hip Hop" (Handbook 638-654)

**Week Thirteen** 11/26 – 12/1

Seminar Paper due  
Lynn Keller "Green Reading: Modern and Contemporary American Poetry and Environmental Criticism" (Handbook 602-623)  
Wendell Berry (Bb)  
Jorie Graham (Bb)  
Robinson Jeffers (Anthology)  
Mary Oliver (Bb)  
Muriel Rukeyser (Anthology)  
Juliana Spahr

**Week Fourteen** 12/3 – 12/8

Formal Presentations for Symposium

**Week Fifteen 12/10**  
Review and Final Exam