

Schedule

Session 1. *Introduction*

- + Billy Collins, "Introduction to Poetry"
- + Robert Francis, "Catch"

PART I. Basic Elements of Poetry

Session 2. *Poetry I. Tone, Speaker, Word Choice in Poems about Fathers*

- + Reading Poetry: Basic Steps
- + Start Michael Meyer, "Poetry"
- + Robert Hayden, "Those Winter Sundays"
- + Sylvia Plath, "Daddy"
- + Theodore Roethke, "My Papa's Waltz"

Session 3. *Poetry II. Sound, Metaphor, Symbol, Image*

- + Continue reading Meyer, "Poetry"
- + Lewis Carroll, "Jabberwocky"
- + Sylvia Plath, "Metaphors"
- + Richard Wilbur, "The Writer"
- + William Carlos Williams, "Red Wheelbarrow"

Session 4. *Poetry III. Rhythm, Visual Form, Performance*

- + Finish Michael Meyer, "Poetry"
- + Alexander Pope, from *An Essay on Criticism*
- + E.E. Cummings, "In Just—"
- + Juan Felipe Herrera, "Mexican Similarities Mexican Differences"
- + Saul Williams, "Sha-Clack-Clack"

PART II. Basic Elements of Fictional Prose

Session 5. *Fictional Prose I. Plot, Character, Setting, Style*

- + Start Michael Meyer, "Narrative"
- + Margaret Atwood, "Happy Endings"
- + Ernest Hemingway, "Soldier's Home"

Session 6. *Fictional Prose II. Symbolism, Narration/POV, Theme*

- + Finish Meyer, "Narrative"

- + Ralph Ellison, “Battle Royal”

PART III. Basic Elements of Drama

Session 7. *Drama in Cultural Context: Sleepy Lagoon and Zoot Suit.*

- + Start Michael Meyer, “Drama”
- + Luis Valdez, *Zoot Suit* (Act One)
- + On Brecht and Epic Theater
- + Explore: PBS, American Experience: The Zoot Suit Riots
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/zoot/index.html>

Session 8. *Cont.*

- + Finish Michael Meyer, “Drama”
- + Luis Valdez, *Zoot Suit* (Act Two)
- + Report of the Citizens’ Committee for the Defense of Mexican-American Youth

PART IV. Keywords and Debates

Session 9. *The Canon*

- + John Guillory, “Canon”
- + Heather Mac Donald, “The Humanities Have Lost Their Humanity”
- + Nas, “NY State of Mind” v. Ezra Pound, “In a Station of the Metro”

Session 10. *Culture*

- + Stephen Greenblatt, “Culture”
- + Charlotte Perkins Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper”
- + Selections from the Bedford Cultural Edition

Session 11. *Gender*

- + Monique Wittig, “One Is Not Born a Woman”
- + Joanna Russ, “When It Changed”
- + James Tiptree, Jr. (Alice Sheldon), “The Women Men Don’t See”

Session 12. *Queer*

- + Lee Edelman, “The Future is Kid’s Stuff”
- + Andrew Bennett and Nicholas Royle, “Queer”
- + In class: “queering” *The Terminator*

Session 13. *Ecocriticism*

+ MH Abrams, "Ecocriticism"

+ Andrew Stanton, dir., *Wall-E*

+ David Smith, "*Wall-E* is Hollywood's New Star, So Why is He Causing an Eco Row?"

Session 14. *Social Media*

+ Marshall McLuhan, "The Medium is the Message"

+ Nicholas Carr, "Is Google Making Us Stupid?"

+ PBS, *Generation Like*

Session 15. FINAL EXAM