FEELING AND FORM: UNDERSTANDING THE POWER OF POETRY

LITERATURE: POETRY – ENG106 (CRN #22282)
Linn-Benton Community College – Benton Center
Fall Term 2009
Syllabus and Course Outline

INSTRUCTOR: W. Kent Buys, Ph.D.

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS: TTH from 9:30 to 10:50 AM in BC-244

OFFICE HOURS: by appointment

PHONE: 541-917-4620 (in Corvallis 752-7720) – call anytime
No emailed papers accepted. Attendance required.

I. CLASS MATERIALS

Required textbook: An Introduction to Poetry, by X.J. Kennedy and Dana Gioia
Other: You should also have a dictionary and a thesaurus.

II. COURSE OUTCOMES

Reading and exemplary poems of excellence will be assigned from the text to correspond with the topics below, then analyzed and discussed in large and small groups within the class throughout the term. Guest poets will visit the class. Students will address the roles of form and feeling in poetry and increase their understanding of the following topics and poetic elements.

A. What is Poetry?
B. Reading and critically analyzing a poem: What do we look for?
C. Understanding meaning and poetic conventions:
   1. Literal meaning and figurative (association, thematic allusion, inference)
   2. Voice and tone
   3. Imagery
   4. Songs
   5. Sound – alliteration and assonance
   6. Rhyme and rhythm
   7. Closed and open forms
   8. Figures of speech – metaphor and simile
   9. Symbols
   10. Myths, culture, and archetypes

D. Writing about poems
E. Writing your own poems
III. GRADING OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

A. Class participation – Peer discussion/analysis/presentation 150 points
B. Two terminology quizzes (50 points each) 100 points
C. Two analytical 4-6 page essays (Week 4, Week 7) 200 points
   Critically analyze a poem of your choice from the text for each,
   using correct grammar, punctuation, at least two secondary resources,
   and correct MLA documentation.
D. Four of your own best poems (Week 4, Week 7) 50 points

Total points: 500 points

Please note: Students must attend class and participate in class activities. Emailed papers
will not be accepted. All assignments must be handed to the instructor at class times unless
otherwise arranged.

Grading Scale
(percentage of total points):

90 – 100 = A
80 – 90 = B
70 – 80 = C
60 – 70 = D

Portfolio Submission of final work FOR CLASS GRADE (no Final Exam)

IV. POETRY PORTFOLIO DEFINED

The eight pieces (two quizzes, two essays, four poems) that you produce during the term may be
corrected/revised once within one week of original submission, each stapled in front of the
original instructor-graded piece and submitted as your best work in a neat 3-ring binder
collection (your portfolio), which will be due the last class meeting day of Week 10. Portfolios
will not be accepted late. The portfolio should contain the items listed below:

1. A Table of Contents which outlines the titles by section tab numbers

2. A one-page definition of poetry drawn from text references

3. Up-graded revisions of the two essays, two quizzes, and four poems for the term,
   stapled on top of all previous drafts, if you desire a better grade
V. IMPORTANT POLICIES

1. **Plagiarism**: Using another’s work (exact words or paraphrase or content summary) as one’s own without proper acknowledgement is called plagiarism and may result in failure of the class and suspension. Referenced work must be correctly cited and listed in the Works Cited (MLA) Section of an essay. In-text citations, a Works Cited Section, and a highlighted copy of the source page are required if internet sources are used.

2. **Waitlist Policy**: If this class is full, registered students not attending the first class during the first week will be withdrawn and waitlisted students who are attending class will be admitted to the class on a first-come first-served space available basis.

3. **Disabilities Services and Emergency Planning** – Meet with Instructor Week One
   If you have emergency medical information for your instructor, need special arrangements to evacuate campus, or have a documented disability, please meet with your instructor by appointment no later than the first week of the term to discuss your needs and present your ODS accommodation letter. If you have a documented disability that will impact you at college and you have yet to seek accommodations, contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) for intake and to document your disability with LBCC. Only students who document a disability and present an accommodation letter to an instructor are entitled to academic accommodation. Each term, when you register for classes and at least two to three weeks prior to the start of a term, submit you “Request for Accommodations” form to ODS. Week 1, pick up letters for your instructors and deliver in person to each instructor during office hours or by appointment. Instructors may need time to arrange your accommodations. ODS may be reached from any LBCC campus/center by email to ODS@linnbenton.edu or by calling 917-4789. Letter pickup is available at each LBCC campus/center. “Additional instructional services, beyond classroom instruction and instructor consultations, are available for all students at the Library and the Learning/Research Center and The Support Lab” (LBCC Faculty Guidelines).

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