Poetry & Poetics I
LMC 3204
CRN:
GT-E Summer 2026
Georgia Institute of Technology
Instructor: Travis Denton
Time: TBA   Classroom: TBA

Office: Poetry@Tech
Office Hours: TBA
Email: travis.denton@lmc.gatech.edu

Core Area: Humanities/Fine Arts
This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Humanities area.
Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:
- How do I interpret the human experience through creative, linguistic, and philosophical works?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:
- Students will effectively analyze and interpret the meaning, cultural significance, and ethical implications of literary/philosophical texts or of works in the visual/performing arts.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:
- Ethical Reasoning
- Information Literacy
- Intercultural Competence

Course Description
Poetry & Poetics I is designed for those who are new to poetry as well as those who are experienced poets or longtime students of the craft. The course is designed not only for those who wish to study the craft of poetry from a literary standpoint, but also for those who seek to analyze poems through the lens of a creative writer and would like to develop a deeper appreciation of poetry. The class provides students the unique opportunity to study poetry in an intensive reading course where representative poems from nearly all major poetic movements will be examined line by line with close attention to sound and sense, as well as to form and theory. The poems will also be examined in the appropriate historical and cultural context. There will also be a poetry writing and workshop component to this course as we enter the mind of the poet.

Learning Outcomes
* Interpretive Frameworks: Students will become familiar with a variety of social, political, and philosophical theories and be able to apply those theories to creative and scientific texts, as well as to their own cultural observations.

* Literary/Film/Narrative Art Inquiry: Students will be aware of the traditions and conventions of literature, film, and other forms of narrative art, and they will be able to analyze those traditions and conventions in specific cultural contexts.

*Students will devote an entire semester to the reading and study of poetry and become conversant with issues of technique as well as literary devices and poetic forms.

*Students will understand the defining characteristics of the specific genre studied and what sets it apart from other writing genres and art forms.

Required Texts
There are no required texts to be purchased. I will provide you with your poetry anthology as well as all additional texts for the course. You may be asked to bring in additional web-based or library materials, which you will be assigned to find on your own. More on that in class.

Subscription to "Poem-a-Day" from the Academy of American Poets. It's free, too. Sign up at www.poets.org.

Additional Materials Needed
You will also need a binder or some other means for maintaining your portfolio.

Graded Assignments:
Your grade will be calculated based on the following:

Attendance/ Class Participation/Daily Work	=25%
Final Portfolio/Journal/Critical Preface	=20%
Midterm Exam	=20%
Motion Poems (Group Project)	=15%
Presentation	=20%
	_____
	=your grade

Attendance
In order to succeed as a writer, or in any other field of study for that matter, you must be dedicated and disciplined. A major indicator of those two traits is regular attendance. Therefore, you are expected to be in class. More than two absences may result in a standard letter grade deduction.

Tardiness must also be kept to a minimum. If you must be late or absent on a given day, please email me in advance, and I will extend you the same courtesy.

Class Participation
Being present in body is important, but being present in mind is equally as important. That is why you must add to class discussions and comment on your colleagues' work as necessary. To earn all points for class participation you must have read all assigned materials and be prepared for class discussions.

Assignments
Your talent as a writer or your level of creativity will not be graded. However, your time put into assignments, your level of engagement, completion and accuracy of assignments, as well as mastery of the material will.

Reading/Writing/Travel Journal
750 words per week—your ongoing assignment. Your journal should focus mainly on a discussion of what you're reading in class (reaction to the poems), ideas for poems, things you see as you move about the world each day, drafts of new poems, things you heard on the train or street, notes on articles you've read during the week which inspire you in some way, and more.

Motion Poems

We'll divide into groups, and each group will make a short film that is a visual interpretation of a single poem.

Poet Review Presentation
You'll choose a poet, preferably a modern/contemporary poet and present that poet's work to the class in an approximately 15-minute talk that includes representative poems, relevant biographical information as well as a discussion of the poet's style, major aims, and any other aspects of the poet's work that are important to the conversation. I will need to approve your choice of poet for this assignment.

Late Work
If you know that you will be absent on the day that an assignment is due, then turn in that assignment in class on the day before it is due. If you have an unforeseen illness or emergency the day that an assignment is due, you must make every effort to email me that assignment. Turning in work late may result in a standard letter-grade deduction for that assignment.

Honor Code:
Please understand that you are guilty of plagiarism if you attempt to present the words, ideas, or work of another as your own without crediting the original source. If you are caught plagiarizing, you will be dealt with according to the Georgia Tech Academic Honor Code. For more details, see
https://policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-life/academic-honor-code#Article_II:_Academic_Honor_Code

Policy on AI Generated Work:
For the purposes of this class, any student found to have used AI technologies or programs (e.g. Chat GPT) to compose part or all of any submitted work will face the same penalties as a student who submits plagiarized work (i.e. a failing grade in the course).

Important Dates to Keep in Mind:
Coming Soon