

# Syllabus

## English 2027, version 1.2

Effective: February 10, 2017

---

### English 2027—Poetry

**Course Description:** Skills for reading and writing about poetry; attention to generic conventions and critical perspectives; section emphasis may vary.

### Textbooks and Other Materials

Read the following textbook information carefully. Please use the ISBN listed below to order the correct materials. ODL is not responsible for student purchases that result in the receipt of the wrong materials. *It is your responsibility* to order the correct textbook materials. Courses are written to specific textbook editions; edition substitutions *are not allowed*.

---

### Required Textbooks

Helen Vendler. *Poems, Poets, Poetry: An Introduction and Anthology*. Third edition. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2010.

**ISBN-10:** 0-312-46319-7

**ISBN-13:** 978-0-312-46319-9

Brenda Marie Osbey. *All Saints: New and Selected Poems*. Baton Rouge: LSU Press, 1997.

**ISBN-10:** 0-8071-2198-3

**ISBN-13:** 978-0-8071-2198-6

Print dictionary, any edition.

In addition to the above, all students are required to have a recent edition of a standard English handbook that covers basic grammar, style, and documentation. Online versions of up-to-date standard handbooks are acceptable. Recommended handbooks include *A Writer's Reference* by Diane Hacker, *The Hodges Harbrace Handbook*, and *The Scott, Foresman Handbook for Writers*. If you have any questions about a handbook, please contact your instructor.

### Ordering Information

Please review the following tips for ordering your course materials:

1. Do not purchase your textbooks until your enrollment is approved. During the processing period, a new section may be opened that could require a different textbook or edition.
2. *Always order by the ISBN.* Publishers and vendors often offer the same textbook title under different ISBNs.
3. If you are having problems locating a textbook, contact us at [Answers@outreach.lsu.edu](mailto:Answers@outreach.lsu.edu) for assistance.

---

### Other Materials and Resources

**Software:** Adobe Acrobat Reader

We recommend that you use Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome as your web browser. Internet Explorer is not compatible with your Moodle course site.

Adobe Acrobat Reader is required to view PDF files.

**Hardware:** Web cam with a microphone (built-in or external), headphones or working speakers, and high speed internet

Proctored exams are completed online and require the hardware listed above. Students are encouraged to review the technical requirements provided on the ProctorU website and to perform a test on their equipment prior to enrolling in this course to make sure they have the necessary resources available. There is a separate charge for each proctored exam.

**Technical Requirements:** <http://www.proctoru.com/tech.php>

**Equipment Test:** <http://www.proctoru.com/testitout/>

## Nature and Purpose of the Course

**Course Outcomes.** Upon completion of this course, you are expected to be able to:

1. Read a variety of texts, comprehending and interpreting both literal and figurative meaning, and paraphrasing passages accurately
2. Identify larger themes, structures, literary devices, and rhetorical patterns in texts, with some understanding of larger contexts
3. Demonstrate the ability to write clear, specific, and effective prose

The following is the learning outcome stipulated by LSU for General Education courses in the Humanities as well as the English department's approach to ensure the fulfillment of this outcome:

An LSU graduate will demonstrate an understanding of historical, cultural, and philosophical complexity which supports sophisticated discourse.

In this course, students will show an ability to analyze and write about poetry coherently, employing standard conventions of explication and analysis and using appropriate terminology associated with the study and appreciation of poetry. This course focuses on analyzing, reading, and interpreting poetry and its heightened use of language. We will study specific types and forms as well as major poets of various eras.

Both as a manifestation of personal experience and as an avenue for public expression, poetry gives meaning and form to ideas and actions. Each module requires active engagement with specific selections, offering the opportunity to gain both skill and pleasure in analyzing poems.

### Working with the Course Materials

Remember, this course covers an entire semester of work or the equivalent of a classroom course lasting 15 weeks. That means that each module in this course equals nearly a week of course work and will require the same time and effort on your part. *Do not expect to complete each module in a single study session. Understand, too, that if you choose to submit assignments at a very high pace, your instructor may not be able to grade your work at the same rate.*

Each module contains information, activities, and assignments organized under a consistent series of headings. Get familiar with how the module is organized. Each module in this course is organized into the following sections: the Module Learning Objectives, the Reading Assignment, and the graded Module Assignment. You should work through these parts of the module in order. Specific recommendations are provided in a link to the course module instructions, which you should review before beginning the first module.

### Suggested Study Techniques

1. Carefully review the module objectives to help you focus on the information that will be covered on the exams.
2. Concentrate on the reading assignments, the module lecture material, and any additional resources provided. After an assignment has been completed, a rapid re-reading of the related text and other materials is strongly recommended.
3. Put yourself on a definite schedule. Set aside a certain block of hours per day or week for this course and work in a place where distractions are minimal.
4. Try to submit one assignment each week or at least every two weeks. Delays in submitting assignments usually result in lagging interest and the inability to complete

## Syllabus

---

the course.

5. Review your module assignments after they have been graded, paying special attention to any instructor feedback provided. We suggest that you wait for assignment feedback before you submit subsequent assignments.
6. Regardless of how you complete your graded assignments, keep in mind that module completion should not be your sole preparation for your exams. As with any college course, you should study for your exams.

## Reading Assignments

Specific information on reading assignments will be given in each module. To do well in this course, it is essential that you read and study all the course materials that precede the module assignment. Do not begin the module assignment until you have done so. For each type of document you prepare for this course, carefully follow the guidelines provided in the textbook, in Moodle, and in this syllabus.

You will read an average of 30–40 pages per module, including poems in the chapters. Modules 01–12 and Module 15 refer to chapters in Helen Vendler's *Poems, Poets, Poetry*. Modules 13 and 14 refer to Brenda Marie Osbey's *All Saints*.

## Topic Outline

This course covers the following specific topics:

| <b>Module</b> | <b>Topic</b>                  |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
| 01            | The Poem as Life              |
| 02            | The Poem as Arranged Life     |
| 03            | Poems as Pleasure             |
| 04            | Describing Poems              |
| 05            | The Play of Language          |
| 06            | Constructing a Self           |
| 07            | Poetry and Social Identity    |
|               | <b>Mid-Course Examination</b> |
| 08            | History and Regionality       |
| 09            | Attitudes, Values, Judgments  |
| 10            | Poets on Poetry               |
| 11            | Writing about Poetry          |
| 12            | Studying Groups of Poems      |

- 13 Death in Osbey's *All Saints*
- 14 Exploring Figures in Osbey's "Ex Votos"
- 15 Interpretive Analysis

### **Final Examination**

## **Module Assignments**

### *Format*

For each module assignment, you will answer several questions, some in multiple parts. While not all answers call for the same amount of detail, the questions should be regarded as discussion questions requiring examples from the texts. You should note that some questions will list a required answer length.

Note that preparing careful responses to the questions in each module is essential. Most of the assignments consist of essay questions that require well developed paragraphs that refer specifically to the poems under discussion. The questions asked are intended to lead you to make close and careful examination of the poems. As a result of this detailed examination, you will be able to make more valid critical judgments than would otherwise be possible. Mere personal experience is not what we are concerned with, but rather your ability to demonstrate, understand, and explain the basis for your analysis of a poem.

### *Submission*

You should submit each module assignment as soon as it is completed. Previous assignments must be submitted before you can submit additional assignments. Specific information on assignment submission is included in the "Module Instructions" in each module. Please be sure to follow these instructions.

Once you submit an assignment, you cannot revise it, so be sure to check your work. Your instructor will normally post a grade for your assignment within *seven calendar days*. Understand that occasional delays will occur, such as during holidays and semester breaks or if you submit several module assignments within the same week.

## **Academic Integrity**

Students in Online Distance Learning (ODL) courses must comply with the *LSU Code of Student Conduct*. Suspected violations of the academic integrity policy may be referred to LSU Student Advocacy & Accountability (SAA), a unit of the Dean of Students. If found responsible of a

violation, you will then be subject to whatever penalty SAA determines and will forfeit all course tuition and fees.

### Plagiarism

Students are responsible for completing and submitting their own course work and preparing their own modules. Many assignments in this course do not require any outside reading or research. Do not look for quick summary analyses online. Develop your own powers of interpretation. All work submitted in the course modules must be the student's own work unless outside work is appropriate to the assignment; all outside material must be properly acknowledged. It is also unacceptable to copy directly from your textbook or to use published answer keys or the teacher's edition of a textbook.

### Collaboration

Unauthorized collaboration constitutes plagiarism. Collaborative efforts that extend beyond the limits approved by the instructor are violations of the academic integrity policy. Students who study together are expected to prepare and write their own individual work for submission and grading.

Plagiarism includes not only the use of direct quotations without documentation, but also the use of paraphrases of information without documentation. Also, you cannot simply change a few words from a source and consider that to be paraphrasing. A good handbook or website can be a valuable source of information on using quoted or paraphrased material.

Remember that it is not difficult for an experienced English instructor to spot plagiarism and that the sources you may be tempted to use are also available to your instructor.

For more information and links to the *LSU Code of Student Conduct* and the SAA website, go to the [ODL Academic Integrity policy](#) on our website.

## Examinations and Grading Policy

There will be two examinations. The mid-course exam covers material in Modules 01–07 and follows Module 07, and the final exam covers material in Modules 01–15 and follows Module 15. You will have a maximum of three hours to complete each exam.

Your exams will consist mainly of discussion and essay-type questions, requiring well-organized and coherent paragraphs. You may use your textbooks and a print dictionary for both exams; however, you will not have access to the internet. The final will be comprehensive, covering topics from the beginning of the course.

Module assignments count 15 points each and exams are 100 points each. The course grade = the average of module assignments + exam scores. Each component is weighted by the following predetermined percentages.

| Component                     | Weight (%) |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Average of Module Assignments | 50%        |
| Mid-Course Exam               | 25%        |
| Final Exam                    | 25%        |

The following grading scale applies:

97%–100% = A+

93%–96% = A

90%–92% = A-

87%–89% = B+

83%–86% = B

80%–82% = B-

77%–79% = C+

73%–76% = C

70%–72% = C-

67%–69% = D+

63%–66% = D

60%–62% = D-

0%–59% = F

### **YOU MUST PASS THE FINAL EXAMINATION IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE**

**IMPORTANT:** You cannot take the final exam until the following requirements are met. Under no circumstances may the final exam be taken earlier.

1. You must have been enrolled in the course for *at least three weeks*, regardless of when the modules and other exams are completed.
2. You must have a grade posted in the Moodle grade book for the Module 15 assignment in order to unlock access to the final exam. Please allow at least 7 days for the final assignment grade to be posted in the gradebook.

To read the full exam policy and other policy statements, visit Continuing Education's homepage. Click on *Extended Campus*, select *Online Distance Learning*, and then click the link for *Guidelines and Policies*.

### **Taking Your Examinations**

You are required to create a Louisiana State University ODL ProctorU account and to take your examinations through ProctorU, a remote proctoring service that allows you to take exams

## Syllabus

---

anywhere with internet access (some restrictions apply). Information on creating your ProctorU account can be found in the "Getting Started" module in Moodle. You cannot use an account created through another university, so if you already have an account, you will still need to create an account associated with LSU Online Distance Learning (ODL).

The ProctorU website provides links you can use to find out how ProctorU works and to check your computer to see that it meets the technical requirements. In addition, to test using ProctorU, you need *access to a web cam with a microphone (built-in or external), headphones or working speakers, and reliable high speed internet* to use this service. A complete list of technical requirements is available from the ProctorU website.

You should schedule your exams about a week before you are ready to take them in order to avoid any additional charges.

## Transcript Information

After you have completed this course, your grade will be filed with the Office of the University Registrar. If a transcript is needed, it is your responsibility to make a request to the registrar. If you would like to order a transcript, visit the Office of the University Registrar Transcript Requests page to view your options at <http://sites01.lsu.edu/wp/registraroffice/student-services/transcript-request/>.

## Copyright

ENGL 2027 Poetry  
Copyright © 2017 LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

Karen Williams, PhD  
Instructor  
Distance Learning Programs  
Louisiana State University

All rights reserved. No part of this material may be used or reproduced without written permission of the LSU Continuing Education Distance Learning Programs. Created in the United States of America.

ED