

## **ANG 1001: Reading Poetry Fall Term, 2011**

Professor Elisabeth Oliver  
Meeting Time: Wednesdays, 16-19h  
Location: B-3250 J-Brillant  
Office: TBA  
Office Hours: TBA  
Email: TBA

### **Course Description**

This course is an introduction to the art and craft of reading poetry. We will consider a wide variety of poetic forms and styles from a number of historical periods. Together we will explore not only *what* a poem means, but also *how* it means—that is, the myriad elements of a poem that contribute to its wider significance. Students will learn how to perform critical analyses of poems, paying special attention to poetic forms and techniques such as word choice, imagery, symbolism and metaphor, among others. We will also read poetry in its social and historical context and consider poetry as a means of representing race, gender and social change. Students are expected to come to class prepared and ready to engage actively with the course readings during lectures and reading workshops.

### **Required Texts**

Walter Kalaidjian, *Understanding Poetry* (and the accompanying CD, 'Understanding Literature'). Houghton Mifflin. (Available at the University Bookstore)

### **Assignments and Grading**

Students will write three essays over the course of the term. The first essay is short (1-2 pages) and will consist of a personal response to a poem, focusing on a single element or detail. The second essay (3-4 pages) is an exercise in close reading in which the student will apply the close reading techniques discussed and practiced in class. The third essay (5-8 pages) is a research paper. Students will produce a comparative study of two poems by different poets, incorporating secondary materials into the analysis. The mid-term exam (90 mins.) will focus on materials covered in the first half of the term and will consist of a quiz and an in-class essay. The final exam (120 mins.) will focus primarily on materials covered in the last half of the term and will consist of a quiz and two in-class essays.

### **Distribution of Marks**

1<sup>st</sup> essay, 10% (due September 20)  
2<sup>nd</sup> essay, 20% (due October 11)  
3<sup>rd</sup> essay, 30% (due November 29)

mid-term exam, 15% (October 18)  
final exam, 25% (December 6)

### **Schedule of Readings**

A detailed schedule of readings will be distributed on the first day of class. To prepare, students should purchase the textbook *Understanding Poetry* from the university bookstore and read the introduction, pp. 1-9.