

**MACONOMET REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
COURSE SYLLABUS**

COURSE NAME: Poetry

Course Title: English 12 Poetry

Course Number: 0187

Department: English

Grade Level and Phase: 12H/CP

Length of Course: Year

Course Description:

Grade 12 English, Poetry, is a college-preparatory course designed to meet the comprehensive needs of a senior. Students will approach poetry as both readers and writers in this elective. As their primary text, students will read Dana Gioia and X. J. Kennedy's *An Introduction to Poetry*, a textbook that describes the techniques of writing poetry in an organized fashion and then presents excellent poems from the Renaissance through the contemporary age to illustrate the principles of poetic composition. The goal of studying the text will be both to increase students' familiarity with and comprehension of poetry, and to improve their own skills as poets. Students will be responsible for keeping a reading journal that includes thoughtful, detailed responses to the poems they read. Each class will begin with brief creative writing assignments, followed by either a discussion of *An Introduction to Poetry* or a peer workshop of students' own poems. Students will be required to write and revise at least one polished poem each week. At least one day a week will be completely devoted to writing and/or reading of independently selected poetry. Students will write a minimum of one analytical essay each quarter. Students will also investigate publishing opportunities and submit their work for publication to various journals and writing contests. Final products will include a portfolio of the students' writing with multiple drafts of each poem and a research project and paper on an individually assigned poet. As with the other variations of English 12, the central question for this course is: What is human nature and how do we know?

Objectives:

Students who pass this course will:

- Identify the role of poetry in understanding their world and their own humanity
- Develop a vocabulary for discussing the elements of poetry
- Analyze poetry in writing and orally
- Demonstrate a willingness to take the risks involved in poetry composition
- Apply the revision process effectively to their own writing, both creative and analytical
- Participate in discussion, writing workshops, and work with others
- Utilize technology effectively
- Conduct independent research
- Investigate and pursue publishing possibilities (*Exit 51*, etc.)

These objectives support the following Learning Expectations from the Masconomet High School Mission Statement: A1, A3, A4, S1, C1

Materials and Activities

Texts:

An Introduction to Poetry by Dana Gioia and X. J. Kennedy

Poetry magazine

Learning activities include but are not limited to:

Studying literature in context
Studying genre and form
Studying poetic devices
Studying tone and diction
Classroom discussion
Creative writing
Writing circles
Note taking
Journal writing
Portfolio building
Formulating critical questions
Writing a variety of compositions

Cooperative group work
Student presentations
Internet and library research
Sustained silent reading
Vocabulary work
Peer editing
Listening
Lecture
Dramatic readings
Media study
Media presentations
College application essays

Each of these learning activities supports the Massachusetts English Language Arts Curriculum Framework.

Scope and Sequence

Because the content and skills do not need to be learned in a sequential fashion, the scope and sequence varies with individual sections and teachers. All students passing this course will have met the objectives listed above. One possible approach for the study of poetry follows. Note that the students will work on their own portfolios throughout the course.

SEMESTER ONE:

Poetry and personal identity

Getting into a poem: the visceral experience of memory and recitation

Defining poetry

The person in the poem

Words matter: denotation, connotation, saying and suggesting, tone

Imagery

Figures of speech and symbol

Myth and narrative

Writing about poetry

SEMESTER TWO:

Song and sound

Rhythm

Closed form

Open form

Defining excellence

Translation and parody

Critical case studies

Independent research and writing

Publishing your work

Reflection on revision

Assessment

Students will demonstrate that they have achieved the central objectives in this course through the following activities:

- Reading-response journals charting their work through assigned reading
- Analytical compositions
- Classroom discussions
- Poetry compositions
- Writing workshops and revision
- Ongoing, independent study of poetry
- Impromptu in-class writing
- Literary terms tests
- Mid-year exam
- Quarterly writing portfolios
- Final, independent research project

Approximate grading breakdown:

30% Poetry portfolio

30% Essays and projects

30% Poetry journal (including in-class assignments, literary terms tests, and homework)

10% Participation and workshops

Revised 06/11