

Tel Aviv University
Poetry and Protest
Syllabus
Spring 2020

Dr. Dara Barnat
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Sunday/Wednesday 12:00-2:00

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Office Hours: Sunday 2:00-3:00/by appointment
Rosenberg 205

Course Description

In this course, we will be exploring American poetry through the lens of dissent, resistance, and rebellion. Part of the mission of many poets in the American poetic tradition (and beyond) is to challenge oppression in the often-intersecting spheres of nation, politics, gender, sexuality, and race. We will be investigating how acts of “protest” in poetry are expressed thematically, as well as in form, in poets such as Walt Whitman, Langston Hughes, Muriel Rukeyser, Allen Ginsberg, June Jordan, Sylvia Plath, Adrienne Rich, Joy Harjo, Naomi Shihab Nye, Claudia Rankine, Tracy K. Smith, and Danez Smith. When relevant, alongside poetry, we may also be reading selections of criticism related to poetry, politics, and literary activism.

Course Procedures

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory for this course. Three absences are permitted without affecting the grade, as per university regulations. After three absences, the participation grade will be brought down five points for each absence. Assignments will be accepted only if a student has been attending class on a consistent basis. Arriving late to class can count as half an absence.

If there are extenuating circumstances that require a student to miss class, such as religious holidays or *miluim*, please make arrangements to contact me in advance. In the case of absence(s), students are expected to follow the syllabus, be aware of class updates and assignments on Moodle, and come prepared for the next lesson. The resources for notes, information, and “catching up,” are the Moodle site and other students in class.

Classroom Etiquette

Please respect your classmates and conduct yourself in the classroom as you would in a professional setting. It is acceptable to bring a laptop to class; however, there should be **no emailing, texting, Facebooking, Tweeting, Snapchatting**, etc. Any of these activities will be considered disrespectful to the class. If they are pursued, students can be asked to leave and receive an absence for the day. In addition, the student's participation grade may be impacted negatively.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the act of intentionally or unintentionally presenting another person's ideas, research, or writings as your own. This includes copying from websites and using uncited sources in your work. Academic integrity violations can result in an F on the assignment, and/or a failing grade in the course, and/or referral to the department or program.

For a comprehensive website on using sources, citation, and plagiarism refer to:

<http://usingsources.fas.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do>

Assignment Format

There will be guidelines for each assignment as to how it should be submitted – by email, on Moodle, as a typed document, or otherwise. This is an English-language course, so assignments are accepted in English, only. When submitting assignments by email, your name and the assignment should always appear in the subject. Papers must follow MLA style for all aspects, including formatting, in-text citations, and the works cited page. Emailed assignments are accepted as **.doc or .docx files ONLY**. Assignments submitted as PDF, .rtf, and other types of files, will not be accepted or graded. If you expect to have a problem submitting your work as a Microsoft Word file, you must contact me least two days before the assignment is due.

Late Assignments

Late assignments will not be accepted, unless an extension is agreed upon in advance of the due date.

Reading Material

Much of the reading material for this course will be posted on the Moodle site by author/date; therefore, the Moodle site must be checked regularly. All reading assignments must be completed before class. Hard copies are preferred, but it is permitted to bring in the readings on any electronic device (laptop, I-Pad), except a cell phone.

Assignments and Grading

The final course grade will be based on the following assignments:

1. Midterm Exam (short-answer questions) 35%
2. Group Project 15%
3. In-Class Writing Assignment (pass/fail)
4. Final Essay (four-five pages) 40%
5. Attendance, Preparedness, Participation 10%

* Instructions for every assignment will be posted on the Moodle site, as well as discussed in class.

* It is the student's responsibility to check the Moodle site regularly for announcements, assignments, readings, and other material.

Course Schedule – March 8th-June 26th (subject to be amended)

*** Sunday, March 8th**

Topic:

Introduction – *Poetry and Protest: Does Poetry Matter?*

From: “Can Poetry Matter,” Dana Gioia (1991)

“In Memory of W. B. Yeats,” W. H. Auden

Assignments:

- 1) Find definitions for the list of poetry terms (handout/Moodle)
- 2) Read for next class (Moodle)

*** Wednesday, March 11th**

Topic: *Nation (America)*

Danez Smith
Walt Whitman
Allen Ginsberg

Assignments: Read for next class (Moodle)

*** Sunday, March 15th**

Topic:

Carolyn Forché
Layli Long Soldier
Tracy K. Smith

Assignment: Read for next class (Moodle)

*** Wednesday, March 18th**

Topic:

Naomi Shihab Nye
Joy Harjo

Assignment: Read for next class (Moodle)

*** Sunday, March 22nd**

Topic:

Nation cont.

Assignment: Read for next class (Moodle)

*** Wednesday, March 25th**

Topic: *Domestic*

Anne Bradstreet
Adrienne Rich

Assignment: Read for next class (Moodle)

*** Sunday, March 29th**

Topic:

Muriel Rukeyser
Sylvia Plath

Assignment: Read for next class (Moodle)

*** Wednesday, April 1st**

Topic:

H.D.
Audre Lorde

Assignment: Read for next class (Moodle)

*** Sunday, April 5th (Tuesday Classes on Sunday)**

Topic:

Domestic cont.

Assignment: Read for next class (Moodle)

- PASSOVER BREAK -

*** Sunday, April 19th**

Topic: *Race and Ethnicity*

June Jordan
Langston Hughes

Assignment: Read for next class (Moodle)

*** Wednesday, April 22nd**

Topic:

Claudia Rankine
Naomi Shihab Nye

Assignment: Read for next class (Moodle)

*** Sunday, April 26th**

Topic: **MIDTERM EXAM STUDY GUIDE POSTED MOED ALEPH**

Sherman Alexie

Assignments: Read for next class (Moodle), midterm exam

* **Wednesday, April 29th**

INDEPENDENCE DAY – NO CLASS

* **Wednesday, May 6th**

Topic:

Race and ethnicity cont.

Assignments: Read for next class (Moodle), midterm exam

* **Sunday, May 10th**

Topic: *Multilingual*

Gustavo Perez Firmat

Juan Felipe Herrera

Assignments: Read for next class (Moodle), midterm exam

* **Wednesday, May 13th**

Topic:

Eduardo C. Corral

Group project assigned

Assignments: Read for next class (Moodle), midterm exam

Friday, May 15th – MIDTERM EXAM MOED ALEPH

* **Sunday, May 17th**

Topic:

Multilingual cont.

Assignment: Read for next class (Moodle)

*** Wednesday, May 20th**

Topic:

Multilingual cont.

Assignments: Read for next class (Moodle), in-class assignment

*** Sunday, May 24th**

Topic:

In-class writing assignment

Assignment: Read for next class (Moodle)

*** Wednesday, May 27th**

Topic:

Group projects (prepare)

Assignments: Read for next class (Moodle), group projects

*** Sunday, May 31st**

Topics:

Group projects (prepare)

Assignment: Group projects

*** Wednesday, June 3rd**

Topics:

Group Projects

Assignment: Group projects

*** Sunday, June 7th**

Topic:

Group Projects

Assignment: Group projects

*** Wednesday, June 10th**

Topics:

Group Projects

Assignment: Read for next class (Moodle)

*** Sunday, June 14th**

Topics: Modern Day

Readings TBA

Final essay assigned

MIDTERM EXAM STUDY GUIDE POSTED MOED BET

Assignments: Read for next class (Moodle), final essay

*** Wednesday, June 17th**

Topic:

Readings TBA

Assignments: Read for next class (Moodle), final essay

*** Sunday, June 21st**

Topic:

Conferences about final essay (optional)

Assignments: Read for next class (Moodle), final essay

*** Wednesday, June 24th**

Topic:

Course review

Assignments:

Final essay – due August 6th

Friday, June 26th – MIDTERM EXAM MOED BET