

EN 25602 Poetry and Drama
Spring 1999, 9:00 MWF in H-223 E-202
11:00

Dr. Loretta Petrie
Before class on the lanai
734-7019

Hg

Texts: Thomas R. Arp, *Perrine's Sound and Sense*, ninth edition.
Jordan Miller, *Heath Introduction to Drama*, fifth edition

This course will introduce you to the study of poetry and drama which we will discuss as a class and in small groups. The specific objectives are to acquaint you with the many techniques poets and dramatists use, to give you a vocabulary and several approaches for understanding the literature and to help you perceive the themes, forms, conflicts, and values inherent in the readings. The overall objective is to enable you to read, write, and talk about literature with understanding and appreciation.

Requirements:	regular attendance, preparation, participation in discussion	10%	%
	series of three quizzes	15%	
	poetry paper	30%	
	reading journal on drama	30%	
	final examination	15%	

Quiz dates: Poetry --February 1
February 24

Drama--to be announced after we choose drama selections

Due dates: Poetry Paper--February 26
Reading Journal--April 26

Week 1: Read chapters 1 (Wednesday) and 2 (Friday) in *Sound and Sense* before class discussion.

Week 2: January 20--Chapter 4	January 22--Chapter 5
January 25--Chapter 8	January 27--Chapter 11
January 29--Chapter 14	February 1--First Quiz
Feb 3: Chapter 6	February 5--Chapter 7
Feb 8: Chapter 12	February 10--Chapter 13
Feb. 10--Chapter 10	February 12--"Home Burial" (255) "Prufrock" (258)
February 17, 19, and 22--Selections from Further Reading	
February 24--Second Quiz	
February 26--Poetry Paper due; begin Drama	

EN 256--Poetry Paper

Due Date: February 26

Your task is to write a paper analyzing 3 to 5 poems that have something in common other than authorship. Usually this means focusing on a theme such as love, war, death. Your text has an appendix with a number of suggestions about writing such a paper and includes information on writing about literature, incorporating quotations, and other suggestions that should prove helpful to you.

Your poems may come from our text or not, just as you choose. Just be sure the poems you will use are worth your time to write about. Often there's not much to say about a simple poem or the work of an incompetent poet. If you are in doubt about your choices, please check with me.

Basic Requirements: minimum length of 4 -5 meaty pages, longer if not concise
must have a title
should develop and focus on a thesis about the chosen subject
conforms to standard format for mechanics, documentation
appropriate acknowledgement of sources

Some possibilities: *Carpe diem* poems
Vietnam War poems
Seasonal poems (spring, summer, autumn, winter—one of each or all on one season)
Poems about birds
Poems about flowers
Elizabethan love sonnets
Poems about racial conflict
Poems about children
Poems about Christmas (or any other holiday)
Sea poems
Short narrative poems (possibly all ballads)
What else can you think of?

Suggestion: Since your paper must focus on a thesis, you should ignore other material unrelated to your topic. For example, if you are writing about love sonnets, you are wasting time and space to define the sonnet. That information is taken for granted. Concentrate on what makes your poems alike—but also different.