

COURSE OUTLINE
ENGL-208
Contemporary American Poetry
3 Credits

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

Contemporary American Poetry focuses on the richness and diversity of America's finest poets. The course begins with a brief selection of earlier significant poets who provide a historical perspective. Students then concentrate on the literary elements and merit of material written from the beginning of the twentieth century to the present. Course work emphasizes close readings and class discussion of a body of works varied in style and content. This course is writing intensive. Prerequisite: ENGL-121. (3 hours weekly)

Statement on General Education and Liberal Learning

A liberal education prepares students to lead ethical, productive, and creative lives and to understand how the pursuit of lifelong learning and critical thinking fosters good citizenship. General education courses form the core of a liberal education within the higher education curriculum and provide a coherent intellectual experience for all students by introducing the fundamental concepts and methods of inquiry in the areas of mathematics, the physical and natural sciences, the social sciences, the arts and the humanities, and composition. This course is part of the general education core experience at Howard Community College.

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Recognize literary terms, concepts, critical strategies and stylistic characters in the texts studied.
2. Demonstrate critical and independent thinking in the interpretation of texts.
3. Write analytically about literary works, using appropriate research and documentation.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of ways the literature studied reflects its intellectual, social, historical, and cultural contexts.
5. Evaluate the power of literature to address personal values and goals and to challenge human endeavors.
6. Read poems effectively (silently and/or aloud) with an appreciation for the sound and rhythm of words.
7. Trace the development of contemporary poetry.

Major Topics

- I. Study of contemporary poetry, with an emphasis on American poets writing today.
- II. Presentation of contemporary poems from sources such as The American Poetry Review.
- III. Opportunities for students to write their own poems and present to the class.

Course Requirements

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but may include exams, papers and class participation. Specific writing assignments will require at least 2,500 words of formal academic writing, as well as informal in-class assignments to explore ideas and respond to class materials.

Other Course Information

This course is a Literature and Humanities core course and a Humanities, English, and Arts and Sciences elective.