

**NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY
ENG 237 – INTRODUCTION OF POETRY (3 CR.)**

Course Description

Examines selected poetry, emphasizing the history of the genre and the elements that constitute effective poetry. Involves critical reading and writing. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

Introduces students to poetry as a literary genre. Emphasizes qualities that characterize poetry, develops students' understanding of the nature and techniques of poetry, and increases students' ability to read poetry analytically.

Course Prerequisites/Co-requisites

Students must have successfully completed ENG 112 or ENG 125 or equivalent or division approval.

Course Objectives

GOAL ONE: CRITICAL READING SKILLS

Students will be taught the understandings and skills necessary to read poems perceptively. By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- identify and analyze the elements of poems which contribute to their effectiveness,
- identify and analyze the characteristics of poems related to traditional forms and the historical development of the genre, and
- demonstrate an understanding of literal and figurative uses of language in poems.

GOAL TWO: INTERPRETIVE SKILLS

Students will be taught the skills necessary to interpret poems. By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- apply a number of basic critical approaches to the same poem, and
- demonstrate a familiarity with the themes and techniques of selected poets.

GOAL THREE: WRITING SKILLS

Students will continue to improve their writing skills. By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- analyze poems persuasively focusing on matters of form and content (effect),
- use textual evidence in written interpretations, and
- engage in all phases of the writing process: prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing.

Major Topics to be Included

- a. Interpretive methods, critical approaches
- b. Poetic diction: literal and figurative language
- c. Rhythm and sound
- d. Forms: traditional and organic
- e. Written analysis
- f. Career and development of selected poets
- g. Emotion in poetry