

## ***INTRODUCTION TO POETRY***

**English 133**  
**Prof. Nan Sweet**  
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**449 Lucas Hall**

**Fall 2001**  
**MWF 10-10:50**  
**126 SSB**  
**ref. 17140**

*Poetry is a way of taking life by the throat.* - Robert Frost

Does poetry grab you? Leave you cold? Make you uncomfortable? Make you feel good? This may be the course for you. Do your professors expect you to understand poetry already and on your own? Do you expect to teach poetry yourself some day? This may be the course for you. Do you write poems? Do you want to write in the company of the greats? This may be the course for you.

TEXT: *Western Wind: An Introduction to Poetry*, Nims & Mason

READING: 40 pages/week

PAPERS: 3 short papers (3-5 pages)

TESTS: 2 focused quizzes (figures of speech, forms of poetry)

REPORT: poetry “out of the box” (sample topics: poets laureate, poetry “slams,” internet poetry, movements such as “Beat” poetry, the local scene, etc.)

GRADING: preparation & discussion 40%, papers 30%, quizzes 15%, report 15%

*Introduction to Poetry* emphasizes

- discussion over lecture
- appreciation and understanding
- working toward papers through prewriting and in-class modeling
- primarily English and American poetry from at least three centuries
- an active classroom “out of the academic” box including poetry over the ‘net
- not poetry writing per se but invaluable background for aspiring poets
- credit for Humanities requirement and English major

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