POETRY AND THE HUMAN (HUMA)

HUMA 18200

Spring: myths and ecologies

The Spring Humanities course (myths and ecologies) looks at how humans tell stories through the poetry of the world: from ancient myths reconfigured voices feminist, queer, and indigenous, to ecologies that draw on the history and geography of the earth, to imaginings of a world without boundaries, and finally to how our pasts and futures merge in the poetic word. Students will be asked to formulate a research project over the course of the quarter that handles one of these themes.

Books and Course Reader

The following books – in order of when we will be reading them – are available at the Seminary Co-op Bookstore, 5751 S. Woodlawn Avenue or from amazon.com, and have also been put on reserve at the Regenstein Library.

- Derek Walcott, *Omeros* (Farrar, Strauss & Giroux, 1992)

All other readings can be found in your Course Reader and on Canvas. Please purchase the Course Reader from Auxiliary Services (Social Sciences, basement).

- Event: Claudia Rankine (Berlin lectures) – April 6, 13, 14. Attendance at one lecture is mandatory.

Louise Glück will be a guest at the Neubeuer Collegium in the spring. Events will be announced as details are released.
Schedule

myths

Week 1: poetry and fairytales
Tuesday: Anne Sexton, from Transformations
Thursday: Louise Glück, from Meadowlands

Week 2: poetry and metamorphoses
Tuesday: Rita Dove, The Darker Face of the Earth: A Verse Play
Thursday: Carol Ann Duffy, from The World’s Wife

Week 3: poetry in transformation
Tuesday: Anne Carson, Autobiography of Red: A Novel in Verse

Week 4: poetry as epic I
Tuesday: Derek Walcott, Omeros
Thursday: Derek Walcott, Omeros
Friday: first draft of extended research paper due by midnight.

Week 5: poetry as epic II
Tuesday: Derek Walcott, Omeros
Thursday: Derek Walcott, Omeros

ecologies

Week 6: prophecy, fable, thought
Tuesday: Richard Wilbur, “Advice to a Prophet”
W. S. Merwin, “The Last One”
Margaret Atwood, “Frogless,” “Marsh Languages”
Thursday: Aldo Leopold, from A Sand County Almanac
Lorine Niedecker, “Traces of Living Things,” “Wintergreen Ridge”
Arthur Sze, “The Angle of Reflection Equals the Angle of Incidence”

**Week 7: poems without borders**

Tuesday: Solmaz Sharif, from *Look: Poems*

Thursday: Javier Zamora, from *Unaccompanied*

Friday: second draft of extended research paper due by midnight.

**Week 8: poetry and our past**

Tuesday: Layli Long Soldier, *Whereas*

Thursday: Layli Long Soldier, *Whereas* (continued)

Friday: final draft of extended paper due by midnight

**Week 9: poems and our future**

Tuesday: Ed Roberson, select poems; “We must be careful”

Thursday: Joy Harjo, from *A Map to the Next World: Poems*