

## Syllabus

**Instructor:** Jonathan Morse, Kuykendall 518 TTH 9:30-10:20 and by appointment.  
Phone 956-8802, e-mail [jmorse@hawaii.edu](mailto:jmorse@hawaii.edu)

**The web page where class documents will be posted:** [jonathanmorse.net](http://jonathanmorse.net)

**The document “Classroom Policies”** on the web page has more information about things like coming to class (do it), e-mailing me your papers (don’t do it), and plagiarism (if you do it, you get an F in the course).

**Text:** *The Norton Anthology of Poetry*, fifth edition

**Grades:** based at 25% each on two exams, a five-page paper, and a final. I grade on the +/- system, with an A worth 4.0 points, an A- 3.7, a B+ 3.3, a B 3.0, etc.

One more assignment, graded pass-fail, will be a sonnet that you’ll write yourself. To fail that one, fail to understand that if it doesn’t include a bat it isn’t a baseball game, and lose one letter grade accordingly. To pass, rewrite and rewrite and rewrite and rewrite and rewrite until the poem (1) rhymes accurately, (2) scans accurately, and (3) makes some paraphrasable sense. Keep writing and I’ll keep reading. I won’t be grading the beauty of your game; I’ll just be measuring the base lines and counting the strikes.

And yes, Walt Whitman wrote a poem called “Spontaneous Me.” But something else Spontaneous Me did was revise.

## Tentative calendar

1/10 Introduction: prose and verse  
12 The idea of language as a game

17 - 26 (four periods) Patterns of thought in the game: the idea of figurative language

31 - 2/7 (three periods) Patterns of sound in the game: rhyme, rhythm, and stanza  
2/9 Exam 1

14 - 23 (four periods) Reading one important stanza form, the sonnet

28 - 3/6 (three periods) Sonnet writing practice  
3/8 Your sonnet is due, but plan to keep working on it until you've got it right.

And now that you know what it's like to experience a poem in detail, we'll spend the rest of the semester reading a few poets in depth, this way.

3/13 - 30 (three periods) Pope and the idea of classicism  
22 Exam 2, about Pope

27, 29 Spring break

4/3 - 12 We read some seventeenth-century poets and talk about your paper. The paper is due and will be discussed on April 17.

4/19 - 5/2 (four periods) Two different ways of looking into the future from the nineteenth century: some poems by Gerard Manley Hopkins and Whitman's "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry"

Final: Thursday, May 10, 12:00 - 2:00