WHY POETRY?

ELIT11: Introduction to Poetry
Winter 2025

Instructor	Chesa Caparas (she/her and they/them pronouns)
Email	caparasfrancesca@fhda.edu
Office Hours	**Tuesdays:** 11am-12:30pm, in-person in F2-1b **Wednesdays:** 3-5pm, online via Zoom (link on Canvas) And by appointment

Course Description

For anyone who actively reads, writes, or studies poetry, you may have been asked: "why poetry?" In this class, we'll take a deep dive into that question. We'll explore not just why we read/write/study poetry but also why does poetry exist? What is the problem that poetry attempts to solve, the question it tries to answer, the emptiness it aspires to fill? To be sure, poems don't always solve problems, provide satisfying answers to questions, or fill the crippling voids in our lives. However, people are still moved to write them, others are moved by reading them, and some make careers out of studying them. Together we'll try to understand why that might be the case.

Student Learning Outcomes (from the Active Course Outline)

- Identify, articulate, and evaluate poetic texts in English and in translation ranging from classical to contemporary and employing a variety of styles and techniques.
- Analyze poems in writing from multiple critical and cultural perspectives.

Class Requirements
- This is hybrid in-person and online course. Internet access is required.
- There are no required texts. All required readings, videos, and other materials will be posted on Canvas.
  - NOTE: Be sure to turn on Canvas Notifications because important course updates and notifications will take place via Canvas Announcements.

Grading Policy

This course will use contract grading, which means you will not receive a letter grade or points for individual assignments. Instead, for each assignment, we will work together to establish a set of expectations and learning outcomes, and you will be evaluated on whether you meet, exceed, or don't meet the expectations. The goal is to focus on the learning process rather than the grade or the points. Therefore, you will regularly write self-reflections about your learning process which will be used to determine your final grade.

Grading Scale

A = Consistently ***exceeds*** expectations

B = Consistently meets expectations

C = Meets some expectations but often falls below expectations

D = Consistently falls below expectations

F = Little or no work done

Late Work

       I do accept late work though any work submitted after the initial due date will not "exceed expectations." Furthermore, assignments will close on Canvas two weeks after the due date and no late work will be accepted after that time. This ensures that I can give timely feedback and that you are able to follow a structured learning process, not just trying to complete all the work at the end of the term.

Class Etiquette

       Please do your part to keep this classroom and our Canvas site safe spaces. You should feel free to share your ideas and express yourself but you should also be aware and respectful that others might have a different opinion than you do. Everybody in this class has a right to be heard. Be mindful that each person brings a different perspective based on her/his/their own experience. If you wish to disagree with a specific argument or claim, you must do so intelligently and respectfully.

       When you are asked to respond to your peers' work, be thoughtful and constructive in your feedback. Remember that our ultimate goal is to learn from each other.

Academic Integrity and My AI Policy

Please see De Anza College's Academic Integrity Policy:
https://www.deanza.edu/policies/academic_integrity.html

       AI tools are allowed for this course with specific restrictions. For the purposes of this class, AI tools include, but are not limited to, generative AI tools like ChatGPT, Gemini, and Claude. AI *also includes* translation tools like Google Translate and writing assistants like Grammarly. If you use ANY of these tools, **you must disclose that you are using them and appropriately cite them at all times**. I aim to teach you how to use these tools effectively, but that means you be honest about when you are using them. For this class you should use MLA format for citing generative AI.

       The first instance of *unauthorized* AI use will require a consultation with the professor and a complete rewrite of the assignment. The second instance of unauthorized AI use will result in a 0 for the assignment. The third instance will result in a failing grade for the class and a Maxient report to the college.

IMPORTANT NOTE: these tools often generate false or misleading information. A large part of this class involves developing the critical thinking skills to approach all information with a healthy amount of skepticism and solid fact-checking skills. Therefore, please be aware that you are expected to cross-reference information generated by AI tools with other vetted sources.