

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.

- Rita Dove, *The Darker Face of the Earth: A Verse Play* (Story Line Press, 1994)
- Anne Carson, *Autobiography of Red: A Novel in Verse* (Knopf, 1998)
- Derek Walcott, *Omeros* (Farrar, Strauss & Giroux, 1992)
- L. Long Soldier, *Whereas* (Graywolf Press, 2017)

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*

Friday: assignment 1: proposal due for extended paper

Week 3: *poetry in transformation*

Tuesday: Anne Carson, *Autobiography of Red: A Novel in Verse*

Thursday: 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*