

English W3220: Modern Poetry – Yeats, Eliot, Auden

Edward Mendelson
Hamilton 602, TTh 4:10-5:25

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Book list: W. B. Yeats, *The Yeats Reader* (Scribner)
T. S. Eliot, *The Waste Land and Other Poems* (Penguin); *Four Quartets*
(Harcourt); a PDF download from Courseworks
W. H. Auden, *Selected Poems* (Vintage); a PDF download from Courseworks

Jan 18 Introductory

20 **Yeats:** The Song of the Happy Shepherd; The Stolen Child; Down by the Salley Gardens; To the Rose upon the Rood of Time; Fergus and the Druid; Cuchulain's Fight with the Sea; The Lake Isle of Innisfree; The Sorrow of Love (*handout*)

25, 27 **Yeats:** When You are Old; Who goes with Fergus?; The Man who dreamed of Faeryland; The Two Trees; To Ireland in the Coming Times; The Hosting of the Sidhe; The Song of Wandering Aengus; He remembers forgotten Beauty; The Cap and Bells; He wishes his Beloved were Dead; In the Seven Woods; The Folly of Being Comforted; Never give all the Heart; Adam's Curse; A Woman Homer sung; Words; No Second Troy; Reconciliation; The Fascination of What's Difficult; A Drinking Song; The Mask; Upon a House shaken by the Land Agitation; All Things can Tempt Me; *also the prose essay* The Symbolism of Poetry (pp. 374-81)

Feb 1, 3 **Yeats:** [Introductory rhymes:] Pardon, old fathers... ; September 1913; To a Friend whose Work has come to Nothing; Paudeen; The Three Beggars; Beggar to Beggar cried; A Memory of Youth; The Cold Heaven; The Magi; The Dolls; A Coat; The Wild Swans at Coole; In Memory of Major Robert Gregory; An Irish Airman foresees his Death; The Collar-Bone of a Hare; The Scholars; On Woman; The Fisherman; The People; On Being Asked for a War Poem; Ego Dominus Tuus; The Phases of the Moon (*handout*); Michael Robartes and the Dancer; Easter, 1916; Sixteen Dead Men; The Second Coming; A Prayer for my Daughter; *also the prose essay* Ireland and the Arts (pp. 382-86)

8, 10 **Yeats:** Sailing to Byzantium; The Tower; Nineteen Hundred and Nineteen; Fragments; Leda and the Swan; Among School Children; All Souls' Night; In Memory of Eva Gore-Booth and Con Markievicz; A Dialogue of Self and Soul; Coole and Ballylee, 1931; For Ann Gregory (*handout*); The Choice; Byzantium; Vacillation; Crazy Jane and the Bishop; Crazy Jane Talks with the Bishop; *handout with charts from* A Vision

15, 17 **Yeats:** The Four Ages of Man; The Gyres; Lapis Lazuli; An Acre of Grass; The Municipal Gallery Revisited; Lullaby (*handout*); Under Ben Bulbin; The Statues; News for the Delphic Oracle (*handout*); Long-Legged Fly; Man and the Echo; The Circus Animals' Desertion; Politics; *also the essay* Introduction to the Scribner Edition (pp. 422-23)

22, 24 **Eliot** The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock; Portrait of a Lady; Preludes; Rhapsody on a Windy Night

(February 22: Brief paper on Yeats due)

Mar 1, 3 **Eliot:** Gerontion; Burbank with a Baedeker; Bleistein with a Cigar; Sweeney Erect; A Cooking Egg; Dans le Restaurant; Sweeney among the Nightingales; The Waste Land; *essays on PDF download*

8, 10 **Eliot:** The Waste Land (continued); The Hollow Men (*handout*)

22, 24 **Eliot:** Four Quartets

(March 22: Brief paper on Eliot due)

29, 31 **Auden:** Who stands, the crux left of the watershed; Control of the passes ... ; It was Easter ...; This lunar beauty; To ask the hard question ... ; Doom is dark ... ; What's in your mind ... ; "O where are you going"; O Love, the interest itself ... ; O what is that sound ... ; Hearing of harvests ... ; Out on the lawn I lie in bed

Apr 5, 7 **Auden:** A shilling life ... ; Our hunting fathers; O for doors to be open; Look, stranger ... ; Dear, though the night is gone; Journey to Iceland; Lay your sleeping head, my love; Funeral Blues; Spain; Orpheus, Miss Gee; As I walked out one evening; In Time of War (complete); Musée des Beaux Arts; Epitaph on a Tyrant; In Memory of W. B. Yeats; *essays on PDF download*

12, 14 **Auden:** Refugee Blues; The Unknown Citizen; September 1, 1939; In Memory of Sigmund Freud; The Quest (complete); But I Can't; In Sickness and in Health; The Lesson; (Three poems from "The Sea and the Mirror":) Prospero to Ariel, Alonso, Miranda; In Praise of Limestone; Hunting Season (*handout*); A Walk After Dark; Memorial for the City; The Shield of Achilles; The Willow-Wren and the Stare; Nocturne; (Two poems from "Bucolics":) Woods, Plains

19, 21 **Auden:** Horae Canonicae (complete); Homage to Clio; First Things First; The More Loving One

(April 21: Brief paper on Auden due)

26, 28 **Auden:** Friday's Child; Dame Kind; You; On the Circuit; Fairground; River Profile; Prologue at Sixty; August 1968; A New Year's Greeting; Talking to Myself; Archaeology

Requirements: Regular attendance. **Three brief papers** (700 to 800 words *maximum*), each expanding on the meaning and larger significance of a passage (to be quoted at the start of the paper) from one of the assigned poems, due on **February 22**, **March 22** and **April 21**. (*Any paper longer than 1,000 words will get a grade of F.*) One or two ten-minute surprise quizzes; these will not seriously affect your grade. The **final exam** will take 90 minutes, not the standard three hours, and is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, **May 10** at 4:10 p.m. The course books are (or should be) at Labyrinth Books; additional PDF handouts may be downloaded from Courseworks.

Absolutely no cell phones, iPods, iPads, tablets, Android devices, laptops, messaging devices, Palm devices, music players, sound or video recorders, video players, portable televisions, global positioning systems, headphones, hologram generators, or any other electronic devices. Silent wristwatches only. Absolutely no baseball caps; no head coverings of any kind unless required by your religion or for medical reasons. Bathroom visits during class are strongly discouraged.