Objectives

Poetry is one of the oldest forms of human literary expression, and has a strong tradition in English literature. Intricately involved with the power of language to create special realms of experience, poetry and the poetic tradition is constantly remade within different historical and artistic contexts.

While its roots in literary tradition are equally strong, the novel is a relatively recent form of literature. From the 19th century in particular, we have received a traditional form of the novel that continues today. In the 20th century, however, certain novelists have felt the need to reevaluate this kind of writing to suit their own artistic needs.

Recently, these forms have become increasingly intertwined: the very ideas of "poetry" and "the novel" have come under artistic scrutiny, and the focus of many writers has become the access we have to cultural experience through literary language itself. By examining the forms of artistic expression in different poetry and novels, we will investigate some the questions raised by these vital literary representations.

Books Required

- The Heath Introduction to Poetry
- Selected poetry handed out in class
- Charles Dickens. A Tale of Two Cities
- Virginia Woolf. To the Lighthouse
- Michael Ondaatje. The Collected Works of Billy the Kid
- Don DeLillo. White Noise
- Eric McCormack. The Mysterium

Recommended Books

- Sheila Watson. The Double Hook

Requirements & Marking

- Three short (2 pages maximum) examinations of poetry, due January, February and March. (10% each)
- One mid-term test (1 hour). (25%)
- One final essay, (8 to 10 pages maximum), dealing with one (or two) of the novels on the course, due at the end of the term. (40%)
- Questions for class discussion and class participation. (5%)
- A reading schedule will be handed out Thursday, 7 January.
- Suggested essay topics will be handed out by the beginning of February.