



**Marshall University Syllabus**  
**College of Liberal Arts**  
**English Department**

**Course**

Eng 213 101: Good Poems

Course Attributes: Writing Intensive, Core II Humanities, Literature.

**Course Description**

Selected examples of poems from a variety of cultures and/or historical eras studied through close reading and analysis. (PR: Completion of Core II composition requirement.)

**Credits**

3 undergraduate credit hours.

**Prerequisites**

PR: Completion of Core II composition requirement.

**Term/Year**

Fall 2022

**Class Meeting Days/Times**

MWF: 11:00-11:50 AM

**Location**

Huntington Campus, Corbly Hall 408

**Academic Calendar**

For beginning, ending, and add/drop dates, see the [Marshall University Academic Calendar](https://www.marshall.edu/academic-calendar/) (URL: <https://www.marshall.edu/academic-calendar/> ).

**Instructor**

Rachel Rinehart

**Contact Information**

- Office: Corbly Hall 207

- Office Hours: MWF: 10:00 – 11:00 AM in CH 207 or by appointment. Masks are not required unless the university has indicated they are.
- TR 8:00 – 9:30am on Microsoft Teams by appointment. Please email me by 5 PM the evening before to schedule an appointment.
- Email Office Hours: TR 12:00-2:00 PM
- Office Phone: 304-696-2711
- Marshall Email: [rinehartr@marshall.edu](mailto:rinehartr@marshall.edu)

## Preferred Communication Method and Expected Response Time

I am most readily available via email during the office hours listed above. While I do check my email somewhat regularly, I cannot guarantee that I will check my email after 5 pm on week days and at all during weekends. On weekdays, please allow 24 hours for me to respond, after which you may email me again, in case your email got buried in my inbox. **While I am able to help you with clarification regarding concepts and assignments via email, please schedule a virtual appointment during my office hours to discuss these issues if at all possible, as a face-to-face discussion is often more productive and efficient.** Unless you have a university excused absence, do not email me to ask what you missed in class. I will not respond to those emails. Additionally, you must use your Marshall email account to email me; I will not respond to emails from personal accounts.

**Please note that, though I read them, I do not respond to emails that do not contain questions. If you would like a response to your email, please ensure that it includes a question.**

## COVID-19 Related Information

Marshall's official COVID-19 protocols are online at <https://www.marshall.edu/coronavirus> (URL: <https://www.marshall.edu/coronavirus/>). Policies and protocols may change over time as we respond to changing conditions. The website will always contain the most recent information – check it frequently for the most current information.

Key policies and practices at the start of the Fall 2022 semester include the following:

- **Wear a mask inside university buildings, when required.** To see the campus current masking status, visit Marshall's COVID-19 Dashboard ([www.marshall.edu/coronavirus](http://www.marshall.edu/coronavirus)). Masks are not required in personal residence hall rooms or workspaces.
- **Students will disinfect their personal workspaces and virtual learning hubs** with disinfectant wipes provided nearby.
- **All members of the Marshall University community are expected to observe all COVID-19 protocols at all times. Students who are unable to follow University requirements due to a disability** should seek

reasonable accommodations from the Office of Disability Services (ODS; [disabilityservices@marshall.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@marshall.edu)) during the first week of class.

## Required and/or Recommended Texts and Materials

### Required Texts and Materials

1. 250 Poems: A Portable Anthology, 3rd Edition by Peter Schakel and Jack Ridl  
ISBN: 978-1457636929
2. Additional reading assignments will be distributed by the instructor
3. A notebook for taking notes in class. Students will not be permitted to read assigned readings or take notes on laptops, phones, or other electronic devices, unless specifically permitted by the instructor.
4. 3 ring binder or 3 prong folder for holding assigned readings and handouts

\*\*In addition to the required texts and materials, students are expected to have regular access to computers with an internet connection in order to complete assignments for this course.

\*\*Students are expected to have obtained course materials by the first day of the second week of class. Students who are not prepared will be unable to complete assignments. If you anticipate an issue with acquiring the materials by the specified date, please contact me ahead of time.

### Course Student Learning Outcomes

The table below shows the following relationships: How each student learning outcome will be practiced and assessed in the course.

<b>Course student learning outcomes</b>	<b>How students will practice each outcome in this course</b>	<b>How student achievement of each outcome will be assessed in this course</b>
Students will analyze and interpret texts through close reading and writing.	Reading journals and in class discussions and activities.	Ars Poetica, Ekphrastic Poem, Formal Poem, Scansion, Midterm Ekphrasis Explication, Final Explication.
Students will apply basic critical terms, devices, and strategies in close reading.	Reading journals and in class discussions and activities.	Scansion, Midterm Ekphrasis Explication, Final Explication.
Students will develop research skills, including assessing quality of sources.	Reading journals and in class discussions and activities.	Scansion, Midterm Ekphrasis Explication, Final Explication.

Students will develop information literacy to discover historical and cultural contexts pertinent to textual interpretation.	Reading journals and in class discussions and activities.	Ekphrastic Poem, Midterm Ekphrasis Explication, Final Explication.
Students will generate through multiple assignments the equivalent of approximately 10 typed, double-spaced pages..	Reading journals and in class discussions and activities.	Ars Poetica, Ekphrastic Poem, Formal Poem, Scansion, Midterm Ekphrasis Explication, Final Explication.
<b>Writing Intensive:</b> Students will improve their writing skills and strategies.	Reading Journals, in class writing and discussion, and writing assignments.	Ars Poetica, Ekphrastic Poem, Formal Poem, Scansion, Midterm Ekphrasis Explication, Final Explication.
Students will engage with writing as a process.	Reading Journals, in class writing and discussion, and writing assignments.	Ars Poetica, Ekphrastic Poem, Formal Poem, Scansion, Midterm Ekphrasis Explication, Final Explication.

## Course Requirements/Due Dates

1. **Homework (10%)** Throughout the semester students will be required to complete various homework activities and participate in class discussions. These activities are designed to help students become more comfortable with the close reading and writing process, practice and hone their writing skills, and brainstorm for larger assignments. Homework will be submitted to Blackboard.
2. **Poem Assignments (30%)** Students will write the following types of poems throughout the semester:
  - a. **Ars Poetica** Due **September 9, 11:59 PM**. For this assignment students will write an ars poetica, a poem in which they write about the art of writing poetry, or what they think poetry should do or be.
  - b. **Ekphrastic Poem** Due **October 21, 11:59 PM**. For this assignment students will write an ekphrastic poem, a poem in which they reflect or meditate on a work of art, such as, but not limited to, a sculpture, painting, or photograph.
  - c. **Sonnet** Due **November 14, 11:59 PM**. For this assignment students will write a sonnet that adheres to the requirements for a Petrarchan or Elizabethan.
3. **Midterm Ekphrasis Explication (20%)** Due **October 7, 11:59 PM**. For this assignment students will write a short explication of an ekphrastic poem in which they comment on how the poem interacts

with the work of art it reflects on. This assignment will also contain a research component.

4. **Scansion (10%) Due November 11, 11:59 PM.** For this assignment students will choose a poem from the anthology that we have not studied in class, or another poem approved by the instructor, and scan the poem to determine its metrical pattern.
5. **Final Explication (30%) Due December 2, 11:59 PM.** For this assignment students will write a longer explication of a poem from the anthology that we have not studied or that has been approved by the instructor. **Because this assignment is a culmination of all the skills students have been practicing throughout the semester, receiving a D or F on this assignment will result in a D or F grade for the course.**

\*\*No major assignments may be completed until the syllabus scavenger hunt has been completed by student and checked by the instructor.

**\*\*All assignments must be submitted electronically to Blackboard in .docx file format unless otherwise specified.** I will not accept or grade assignments submitted to me via email or hard copy. **Grades will be recorded and posted on Blackboard. With the exception of homework, all assignments should be typed and formatted according to MLA Guidelines.**

## **Grading Policy**

### **Grading Scale**

All assignments and the final course grade will adhere to the following scale:

100%-90%: A

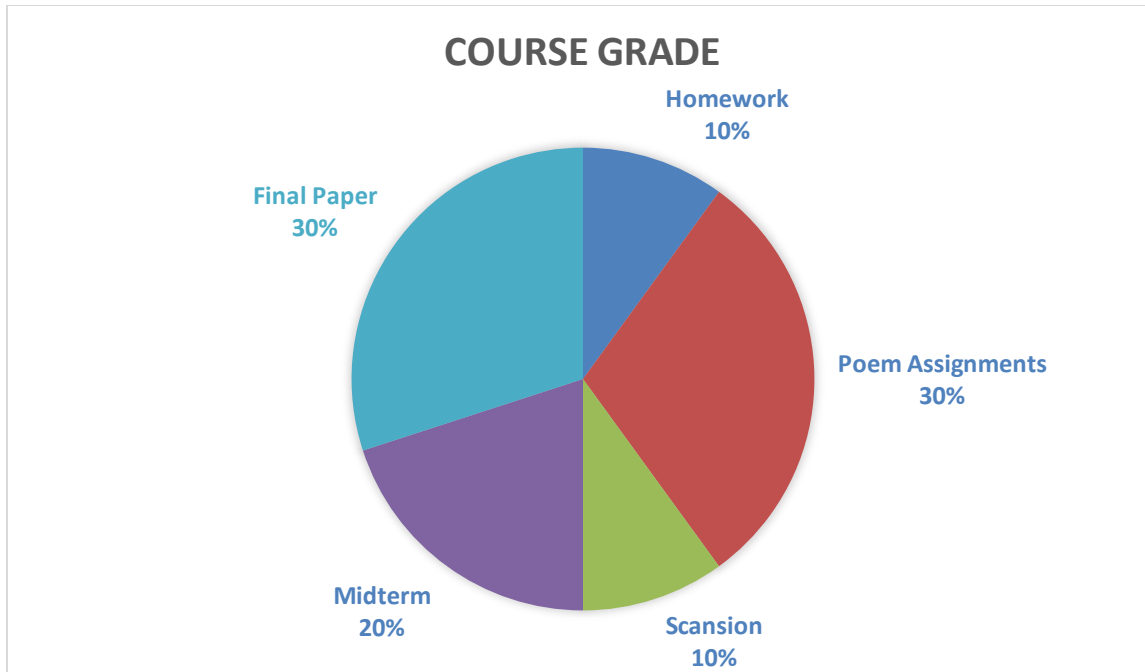
89%-80%: B

79%-70%: C

69%- 60%: D

59%- 0%: F

\*\*Grades will be calculated and recorded on Blackboard. I am happy to discuss grade issues with you during my office hours or by appointment, but I will not discuss grade issues via email. Additionally, I ask that students wait at least 24 hours after I return major assignments before discussing their grade with me.



## Attendance/Participation Policy

Due to the nature of the materials and assignments it will be difficult to pass this course if you do not attend class regularly. Excused absences must be documented with Student Affairs and must fall into one of the five "University Excused Absences" categories in the undergraduate catalog:

[http://www.marshall.edu/catalog/files/UG\\_18-19\\_published\\_08-09-18.pdf](http://www.marshall.edu/catalog/files/UG_18-19_published_08-09-18.pdf).

Students who miss 7 or more class periods due to unexcused absences will automatically fail this course. **Note that missing class for work is not a university excused absence.**

In all cases of an absence, whether excused or unexcused, the student must complete work as assigned according to the due date in the course syllabus unless the nature of the absence prevents the student from doing so. In cases of prolonged, excused absences (2 or more consecutive class periods) wherein homework cannot be completed as scheduled (e.g. hospitalization, death of a family member), students must request an extension via email within 48 hours of the due date. Conditions of the extension must be met in order to receive full credit.

Any absences exceeding two weeks of class (4 classes in a two-day per week class; 6 absences in a three-day per week class), excused or unexcused, may begin to negatively affect a student's grade and students may be asked to withdraw from the course.

**University Excused Absences:** It is your responsibility to provide me with appropriate documentation for excused absences and to contact me to make arrangements to make up work. You will have one week following your return from

an excused absence to turn in missed work. Documentation for all university excused absences must be submitted to the Office of Student Affairs, who will notify me that your documentation meets the requirements for an excused absence. Here is a link to the online form for submitting excuses:  
<https://www.marshall.edu/student-affairs/excused-absence-form/>

If you are going to submit an excuse for an absence, you must do so within one week of returning to class from that absence. (If there's a delay in obtaining the documentation you need, you should email me within one week of returning to class to explain the delay.)

## **Communication Expectations**

Due to the nature of the course material, class discussion is an integral part of this course and occasionally controversial subjects will arise. You are adults, and I expect you to behave as such, especially by keeping an open mind and being sensitive and respectful of others' opinions. Discriminatory remarks based on gender, race, sexual orientation, age, religion, or ethnicity will be in no way tolerated in class discussion or in written work. A verbal offense will result in a warning, followed by dismissal from class if the offense is repeated. Written offenses will result in a request to rewrite the assignment because they are inappropriate for an academic audience and alienating to readers.

## **Technology**

There will be occasions in class when I permit or encourage you to use your cell phones, such as to look up a word you don't know or find a piece of information.

However, I ask that you refrain from texting, using social media, and playing games on any devices during my class, and that you silence your phones. I understand that emergency situations arise. If you anticipate an emergency phone call, please let me know at the beginning of class, and you may step into the hall to take it.

Students are asked not to use laptops or tablets during class unless specifically permitted by the instructor. All reading assignments will come from the textbook or be distributed in hard copy.

## **Late Work Policy**

**No late work will be accepted without a University Excused Absence or unless you have made prior arrangements with me.**

**Extensions:** Extensions may be granted on a case-by-case basis, as I deem appropriate. I am more likely to grant extensions to students who make me aware of their circumstances as soon as possible (preferably in advance of the deadline).  
**Students who ask for extensions more than once are unlikely to be granted a second extension.**

## Anticipated Response Time for Grading and Feedback

Response Time for Grading and Feedback will be around two weeks for major assignments.

## Poem Assignment Policies

### Content Constraints:

- Because this is a literary writing course, **genre writing (sci-fi, fantasy, dystopian, historical, horror, etc.) is not permitted.**
- **A suicide, death, incident of domestic violence, or rape may not occur during the course of your poetry.** Because poets in this course are beginners, they lack the technical skill to deal with the complexity of these situations. Your speaker may be coping with the aftermath of these situations, but consider whether you can make this truly impactful in 31 lines.
- **No poems may be written about video games, family vacations (esp. not to Disney World or Myrtle Beach), or pets. Poems must be written from the perspective of people, not animals or inanimate objects.**
- **No romantic poetry:** Students often reach for romantic poetry as a crutch, and it is prone to be clichéd and flat. Try to stretch and hone your poetic skills writing about other topics. You can return to romantic poetry with your newly developed skills after the semester.
- **Forbidden words:** A list of words you are not permitted to use in your poems will be posted to Blackboard. These are words that are clichéd, abstract, and overused. Using these words in poetic exercises or workshop poems will result in a five point deduction for each instance.
- **Poems must be self-contained and written for this course.** No poems in a series or poems you wrote in high school, etc.

## Academic Dishonesty

All of the work you do for this class is expected to be your own, which you have written specifically for this class. Information used from sources (in summary, paraphrase, and quoted form) must be properly cited in MLA format. Failure to do this correctly is plagiarism. You must check your assignments carefully to see that they adhere to MLA guidelines prior to turning them in. Incorrect citations or failure to cite source materials will result in a penalty based on the severity of the offense, from point deductions to a 0 on the assignment.

Blatantly plagiarizing work—copying and pasting text, without a clear attempt to cite source material—will result in failure of the course and a report to the Office of Student Affairs, as will turning in work written by someone else, or not written specifically for this course. Sanctions from the Office of Student Affairs can result in suspension or expulsion from the university.

**All lecture and assignment materials disseminated by the instructor for this class are for registered students only.** Sharing these materials with students who are not in this class or posting or selling them to websites such as Study Soup constitutes a copyright violation and could result in university sanctions.

## Writing Center

The University Writing Center is located on the 2nd floor of Drinko Library. Their website is: <http://www.marshall.edu/english/writingcenter/>. The Writing Center is an excellent resource and can offer even more individual help on writing issues than you receive in class. You are encouraged to visit the writing center on your own, at any time in the semester, but I offer extra points on certain high stakes assignments to student who go and turn in proper documentation of their visit. When you visit, please remember to bring your assignment rubric or prompt sheet, so that the tutor has a good understanding of the requirements.

## University Policies

By enrolling in this course, you agree to the University Policies. Please read the full text of each policy (listed below) by going to [MU Academic Affairs: University Policies](https://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/policies/). (URL: <https://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/policies/> )

- Academic Dishonesty Policy
- Academic Dismissal Policy
- Academic Forgiveness Policy
- Academic Probation and Suspension Policy
- Affirmative Action Policy
- Dead Week Policy
- D/F Repeat Rule
- Excused Absence Policy for Undergraduates
- Inclement Weather Policy
- Sexual Harassment Policy-Marshall's Title IX Office may be contacted at [TitleIX@marshall.edu](mailto:TitleIX@marshall.edu)
- Students with Disabilities (Policies and Procedures)
- University Computing Services Acceptable Use Policy

## Course Schedule

\*\*Course Schedule is tentative and subject to change.

\*\*Assigned readings should be completed before class on the date they are listed.

<p>August 22</p> <p>Introductions</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Syllabus Review and Scavenger Hunt</p> <p><b>What is Poetry? Ars Poetica</b></p> <p>"Introduction to Poetry" Billy Collins, Handout</p>	<p>26</p> <p>"Because You Asked about the Line Between Prose and Poetry" Howard Nemerov, Handout</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Essay: "How to Read a Poem and Why" 250 Poems pp.1 – 5</p> <p>"Digging" Seamus Heaney, 250 Poems p.211</p>	<p>31 <b>Ars Poetica</b></p> <p>"The Poem You Asked For" Larry Levis, 250 Poems p. 237</p> <p>"Eating Poetry" Mark Strand, 250 Poems p. 201</p>	<p>September 2 <b>Image</b></p> <p>Identifying and Using Sensory Language Activity</p> <p>"Oranges" Gary Soto, Handout</p>
<p>5</p> <p>No Class: Labor Day</p>	<p>7</p> <p>"Under the Vulture Tree" David Bottoms, Handout</p> <p>"Cold as Heaven" Judith Ortiz Cofer, 250 Poems p. 254</p>	<p>9</p> <p>"The Fish" Elizabeth Bishop, Handout</p> <p>"Those Winter Sundays" Robert Hayden, 250 Poems p. 156</p>
<p>12 <b>Metaphor and Simile</b></p> <p>"The Death of the Ball Turret Gunner" Randall Jarrell, 250 Poems p.159</p> <p>"Baseball" Linda Pastan, Handout</p>	<p>14</p> <p>"Mother to Son" Langston Hughes 250 Poems p. 138</p> <p>"I wandered lonely as a cloud" William Wordsworth, 250 Poems p. 43</p>	<p>16 <b>Ekphrasis</b></p> <p>Essay: "How to Write about a Poem—and Why" 250 Poems pp. 304 – 315</p> <p>Brueghel's "Landscape with the Fall of Icarus" Painting (view and discuss in class)</p> <p>"Bk VIII:183-235 Daedalus and Icarus" Ovid's Metamorphoses</p>

<p>19</p> <p>"Musée des Beaux Arts" W.H. Auden, <i>250 Poems</i> p.145</p> <p>"Landscape with the Fall of Icarus" William Carlos Williams, Handout</p> <p><b>Ars Poetica Due 11:59 PM</b></p>	<p>21</p> <p>Cathy Song "Girl Powdering Her Neck" Cathy Song, <i>250 Poems</i> p. 272</p>	<p>23</p> <p>"Facing It" Yusef Komunyakaa, <i>250 Poems</i> p. 238</p>
<p>26</p> <p>"The Small Vases from Hebron" Naomi Shihab Nye, <i>250 Poems</i> p. 256</p>	<p>28 <b>Lyric Poetry</b></p> <p>"The Lamb" William Blake, <i>250 Poems</i> p. 36</p> <p>"The Tyger" William Blake, <i>250 Poems</i> p. 37</p>	<p>30 <b>Narrative Poetry</b></p> <p>"Tomatoes" Stephen Dobyns, Handout</p>
<p>October 3</p> <p>"Out, Out" Robert Frost, <i>250 Poems</i> p. 108</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Ekphrasis Explication In Class Work Day</p>	<p>7 <b>Lineation</b></p> <p>"Because I could not stop for Death" Emily Dickinson, <i>250 Poems</i> p. 93</p> <p><b>Ekphrasis Explication Due, 11:59 PM</b></p>
<p>10</p> <p>"A Supermarket in California" Allen Ginsberg, <i>250 Poems</i> p. 176</p>	<p>12</p> <p>"We Real Cool" Gwendolyn Brooks, <i>250 Poems</i> p. 165</p> <p>"More Light, More Light" Anthony Hecht, Handout</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Ekphrastic Poem Observation Day: No Class</p>

<p><b>17 Repetition</b></p> <p>"From Jubilate Agno" Christopher Smart, <i>250 Poems</i> p. 34</p>	<p>19</p> <p>"Praise the Tortilla, Praise Menudo, Praise Tortilla" Ray González, <i>250 Poems</i> p. 263</p>	<p>21</p> <p>"at the cemetery, walnut grove plantation, south carolina, 1989" Lucille Clifton, <i>250 Poems</i> p. 208</p> <p>"The Bones of My Father" Etheridge Night, Blackboard</p> <p>Ezekiel 37:1-14 (KJV), Handout</p> <p><b>Ekphrastic Poem Due, 11:59 PM</b></p>
<p><b>24 Sound</b></p> <p>"Blackberry Eating" Galway Kinnell, Handout</p> <p>"The Lake Isle of Innisfree" W.B. Yeats, Handout</p>	<p><b>26 Voice and Style</b></p> <p>"Cuba, 1962" Ai, Handout</p> <p>"The Motorcyclists" James Tate, Handout</p>	<p><b>28 Rhyme and Meter</b></p> <p>"My Papa's Waltz" Theodore Roethke, <i>250 Poems</i> p. 147</p> <p>"Death Be Not Proud" John Donne, <i>250 Poems</i> p. 17</p>
<p><b>31 Scansion</b></p> <p>"When I consider how my light is spent" John Milton, <i>250 Poems</i> p. 21</p>	<p>November 2 <b>Sonnet</b></p> <p>"When I consider how my light is spent" John Milton, <i>250 Poems</i> p. 21 (again)</p> <p>"America" Claude McKay, <i>250 Poems</i> p. 132</p>	<p>4 Scansion Work Day</p>
<p><b>7 Villanelle</b></p> <p>"Do not go gentle into that good night" Dylan Thomas, <i>250 Poems</i> p. 161</p> <p>"One Art" Elizabeth Bishop, <i>250 Poems</i> p. 155</p> <p><b>Scansion Due, 11:59 PM</b></p>	<p><b>9 Aubade</b></p> <p>"The Sun Rising" John Donne, Handout</p> <p>"Aubade" Philip Larkin, Handout</p>	<p><b>11 Elegy</b></p> <p>"Elegy for Jane" Theodore Roethke, <i>250 Poems</i> p. 148</p> <p>"Tiara" Mark Doty, <i>250 Poems</i> p.265</p>

14 <b>Some Last Poems, TBD</b> <b>Sonnet Due, 11:59 PM</b>	16 <b>Some Last Poems, TBD</b>	18 Guided Brainstorm Final Explication  Last Day to Withdraw from Course
21  No Class: Thanksgiving Break	23  No Class: Thanksgiving Break	25  No Class: Thanksgiving Break
28  Drafting Final Explication	30  Drafting Final Explication	December 2  Last Day of Class <b>Final Explication Due 11:59 PM</b>