

Syllabus: American Women Poets

Feb. 21: Introduction (I present the course: what is poetry? How to read poetry, scansion, meter and form, women's literary history, the cultural politics of female creativity) and introductions (students present themselves) – tell the truth & This is my letter to the world

Feb. 28: Emily Dickinson: 435: "Much Madness is divinest Sense--," 448: "This Was a Poet – It is That," 657: "I Dwell in Possibility" Critical Text: Wendy Barker, "Emily Dickinson and Poetic Strategy" Short Quiz on Literary Glossary (passed out first day)

March 7: Emily Dickinson: 732: "She rose to his requirement—Dropt," 199: "I'm Wife—I've finished that," 754: "My Life had Stood—a Loaded Gun" 11:30: short visit by Antoine Bianchi to present academic writing workshop Discussion leaders:

Midterm Topic Passed Out

March 14: Debby Rosenthal, "Speech Act Theory and Reading Dickinson" (Guest Lecture)

March 21: Reading Week

March 28: Emily Dickinson: 468: "I Heard a Fly Buzz When I Died," 280: "I Felt a Funeral in my Brain," 632: "The Brain – is wider than the Sky—" Discussion leaders:

Midterm due

Easter Break

April 11: H.D. (Hilda Doolittle): "Mid-Day," "Oread," "Helen," poems from *Sea Garden* (1916) Discussion leaders:

April 18: Elizabeth Bishop: "In the Waiting Room," "The Moose," "One Art," "The Fish" Discussion leaders:

April 25: NO CLASS—Trial Lectures for Professor of Linguistics

May 2: Sylvia Plath, guest teacher: Sean Reynolds Poems: "Fever 103°," "Edge," "The Moon and the Yew Tree," "Lady Lazarus," "Morning Song," "Poem for a Birthday: Who," "Beekeeper's daughter." Discussion leaders:

May 9: Ascension

May 16: Adrienne Rich, "I Am in Danger – Sir" & other poems Discussion leaders:

May 22: Final Essays Due/Peer Editing

May 30: Final Essays Returned

Requirements: in addition to regular attendance and active oral participation, you will write 1 short midterm essay (2-3 pages) and 1 final essay (5-8 pages), and prepare questions for a group discussion one time. All essays should use the EDGE style and follow its guidelines in all matters of formatting, style and structure.