

## アメリカ文学 A / American Literature A: Poetry in the 20th Century

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Office: Room 224

Office Hours: Fridays, 3rd period (Room 224 or L.S. Wing) or by appointment

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### Course Description

This course focuses on American poetry in the 20th century. We will study the different ways that American writers have used poetry to express the experience of modern life. Through lectures and class activities, we will learn how to read, analyze, discuss and write about poetry as well as think about the relationship of the poetry to the society and culture of the times. Some lectures and readings will focus on popular American music in the 20th century. We will learn about the differences between poetry and popular song lyrics and think about the ways popular music has been used to express life in modern America.

### Course Objectives

Course objectives include (1) knowledge of American culture and society in the 20th century; (2) ability to read, analyze, discuss and write about poetry and song lyrics; (3) knowledge of the development of American poetry and music and their relation to the broader culture of the US.

### Teaching Methods

Class activities include lectures in English, weekly reading and journal writing, note-taking, small-group discussion and tests. There will be lectures each week, introducing poets, poems and the culture and events of the times. One poem will be assigned each week. You will write a short response (one or more paragraphs) to the poem in your class notebook and use your response for discussions with your classmates. You will also make notes for your group discussions in addition to taking your lecture notes. Your notebook is record of homework and class participation. I will check your class notebook two or more times during the semester.

### Evaluation:

(1) Class notebook	50%
(2) Tests and quizzes	20%
(3) A short analytical essay on a poem (4-5 pages, typed and double-spaced)	30%

### Course Materials:

- (1) Handouts and readings for this course will be supplied by the teacher.
- (2) A notebook to use for class notes and journal writing.
- (3) Course information, links, and sound recordings of poems are posted on the course homepage <<http://www.chukyo-eibei.org/uslh/>>. Some course information will be available through Twitter: @USLitEibei
- (4) Reference books and articles in English and Japanese can be found in the Common Room.

### Regulations:

- (1) Regular class attendance is important. Do not miss more than 5 classes. If you have to miss class, please email me. All homework and handouts will be posted on the homepage.
- (2) Prepare your weekly writing at home and come to class ready to talk and make notes.

### For International Exchange Students:

This is both a skills- and a content-based class in which English-native speakers and non-natives can develop competence in academic writing in general and literary analysis in particular as well as knowledge in the subject area. International students may be asked to take leadership roles within groups. Sensitivity to Japanese communication style would be an asset in the class. Regulations concerning attendance, evaluation and completion of assignments are the same for all students.