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Anne Colwell, a poet and fiction writer is an Associate Professor of English at the University of Delaware. Her work has appeared in several journals, including: *California Quarterly*, *Mudlark*, *Evansville Review*, *Eclectic Literary Forum*, *Southern Poetry Review*, *Stickman Review*, *Poetry Bay*, and *Octavo*. An online chapbook of her poems appears in *The Alsop Review*. Her first book of poems, *Believing Their Shadows*, has been a finalist for the University of Wisconsin's Brittingham Prize, the Anhinga Prize, New Issues Poetry Prize and the *Quarterly Review of Literature*. Her critical book, *Inscrutable Houses: Metaphors of the Body in the Poems of Elizabeth Bishop*, was published by the University of Alabama Press in 1997. She received an Established Artist Award in Poetry and an Emerging Artist Award in Fiction from the Delaware State Arts Council. She lives in Milton, Delaware with her husband James Keegan and son, Thomas.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

MALS 667: American Women Poets: The Search for the Self

Course Objectives:

- * To read actively and imaginatively the works of American woman poets from Anne Bradstreet to the present.
- * To discuss these works carefully and look for their individual contributions and expressions as well as their commonalities.
- * To participate in and lead lively discussions of these works.
- * To express ideas about these works clearly and eloquently in written form.
- * To broaden our imaginations and perceptions and, in doing so, to change our lives.

Texts:

The Norton Anthology of American Literature. Shorter Edition. Eds. Baym, et. al. New York: Norton & Company, 1995.

No More Masks. Ed. Florence Howe. New York: Harper Perennial, 1993.

Course Requirements:

- * All assigned reading completed and prepared for discussion by class time. A weekly, one page response paper. Worth 20% of the final grade.
- * One critical / research paper examining the work of one poet on the syllabus. Guidelines explained on a separate handout. Worth 30% of the final grade.
- * One paper presentation discussing the progress of your research and presenting a reading of one of the poet's works in light of your thesis. (Guidelines given on a separate handout.) Worth 25% of the final grade.
- * One or two turns as discussion leader. (Also explained on a separate handout.) Worth 25% Of the final grade.

Policies and Expectations:

- * Because of the nature of the nature and intensity of the course, you may not be absent without an excuse. Excuses include sickness, death in the family, or transportation emergencies. If you are absent without an excuse, you will lower your by one half a grading increment each time.
- * Any paper handed in later than the due date will be penalized one whole grading increment for each day that it is late.
- * Because the course is dependent on discussion, I expect that everyone will participate in both the discussions themselves and in the creation of a climate of respect and tolerance that allows meaningful discussion.
- * I expect that if you have problems or questions you will come and talk to me. Do not let little problems grow into big, unwieldy problems with teeth and claws! You can make an appointment to meet me and/or call me at 856-5400, Extension 264. You can E-mail me at colwell@udel.edu.

Course Schedule

February:

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| 12 | Course Introduction
Elements of Poetry
How to Read a Poem |
| 19 | Anne Bradstreet: entire section in Norton
Edward Taylor poems: "Upon Wedlock and Death of Children"
"Upon a Wasp Chilled with Cold"
"Housewifery" |
| 26 | Emily Dickinson: entire section in Norton
Walt Whitman: selection from <i>Song of Myself</i>
Other poets on handout |

March:

- 5 Marianne Moore: All poems in both anthologies
Amy Lowell: All poems in both anthologies
H.D.: All poems in both anthologies
- 12 Edna St. Vincent Millay: All poems in both anthologies
Louise Bogan: Handout, NMM 50-53
Gertrude Stein: NMM 16
- 19 Dorothy Parker: Handout
May Swenson: NMM 100
Kay Boyle: NMM 53
- 26 Group Work

April:

- 9 Elizabeth Bishop: Norton 2451
Robert Lowell: "Skunk Hour" 2496
Handouts
- 16 Muriel Rukeyser: NMM 76
Gwendolyn Brooks: NMM 95, Norton 2501
- 23 Denise Levertov: Norton 2526, NMM 142
Mitsuye Yamada: NMM 156
Mona Van Duyn: NMM 123
- 30 Anne Sexton: NMM 191
Sylvia Plath: NMM 220, Norton 2606

May:

- 7 Adrienne Rich: NMM 196, and End Letter, Norton 2585
Essays on handout
- 14 Lucille Clifton: NMM 254
Rita Dove: NMM 442, Norton 2649
Marilyn Nelson Wanick: NMM 396
- 21 On Handout:
Fleda Jackson
Maxine Kumin
Mary Oliver