

Appendix - Reading List  
Meredith McGill, "Nineteenth-Century Poetic Genres in Transatlantic Context: A Dialogue"  
*Teaching Transatlanticism*

Nineteenth-century Poetic Genres: A Transatlantic Approach

Rutgers University; Literatures in English  
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**Course Description:**

Nineteenth-century British and American poetry is ordinarily taught in parallel tracks as the unfolding of separate traditions; we will approach these intertwined histories, instead, through the lens of poetic genre. Rather than sort poets and poems by national tradition, we will study the trajectory of specific verse genres, asking whether and how national culture makes a difference to the history of major genres such as pastoral, georgic, and epic. We will also seek to trace the histories of minor verse genres such as elegy, ballad, dramatic monologue, and ode, genres that might better be considered as forms or modes, or that seem to loosen the ties between formal definition and social or cultural function.

**Schedule of Readings**

**Sept. 6 Introduction**

David Duff, "The Old Imperial Code," from *Romanticism and the Uses of Genre* (2009)

**Sept. 13 Genre**

Aristotle, *Poetics* (c. 335 BCE)

Claudio Guillen, "On the Uses of Literary Genre," from *Literature as System* (1971)

Tvetzan Todorov, "The Origin of Genres" (1976)

Frederic Jameson, "Magical Narratives: On the Dialectical Use of Genre Criticism" from *The Political Unconscious* (1981)

Max Cavitch, "Genre," from *The Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics* (2012)

**Sept. 20 Pastoral**

Theocritus, *Idylls* (3<sup>rd</sup> C BCE), 1, 4  
Virgil, *Eclogues* (40 BCE), 1, 2, 4, 5, 7

Alexander Pope, “Winter” from *Pastorals* (1709)  
Jonathan Swift, “A Description of a City Shower” (1710)  
William Wordsworth, “The Ruined Cottage” (1797), “Michael, A Pastoral Poem” (1800)  
Samuel Taylor Coleridge, “Frost at Midnight” (1798 / 1817)  
Alfred Tennyson, “The Grasshopper” (1830)  
William Cullen Bryant, “Thanatopsis” (1817 / 1821) and “Inscription for the Entrance to a Wood” (1817)  
Ralph Waldo Emerson, “The Humble Bee” (1839) and “The Snow-Storm” (1841)

Alexander Pope, “A Discourse on Pastoral Poetry” (1704)

*The Guardian*, Nos. 22, 23, 28, 30, 32 (Tickell) and 40 (Pope) (1713)

Paul Alpers, “What is Pastoral?” (1996)

**Sept. 27 Pastoral and Georgic**

Virgil, *Georgics* (30 BCE), I, II, IV

James Thomson, from “Autumn,” “Winter,” from *The Seasons* (1746)  
Oliver Goldsmith, “The Deserted Village” (1770)  
Anna Laetitia Barbauld, “Washing Day” (1797)  
William Wordsworth, “Resolution and Independence” (1807)  
Fitz-Greene Halleck, “The Field of the Grounded Arms” (1828)  
Lydia Sigourney, “To a Shred of Linen” (1838)

William Wordsworth, “Essay Supplementary to the Preface,” *Poems* (1815)  
Michael McKeon, “The Pastoral Revolution” (1998)

**Oct. 4 Georgic**

James Grainger, from “The Sugar Cane” (1764)  
From *Jamaica: A Poem in Three Parts* (1777)  
Timothy Dwight, “The Flourishing Village,” from *Greenfield Hill* (1795)  
William Cullen Bryant, “The Prairies” (1832)  
Fitz-Greene Halleck, “Connecticut, Part Two” (1852)  
Thomas Grayson, *The Hireling and the Slave* (1854)

Kevis Goodman, "Introduction," *Georgic Modernity and British Romanticism* (2008)

**Oct 11**      **Epic: Book Ones**

William Cowper, *The Task*, Book 1 (1785)  
Joel Barlow, *The Vision of Columbus*, Book 1 (1787)  
William Wordsworth, *The Prelude*, Book 1 (1805)  
Lord Byron, *Don Juan* Canto 1 (1819)  
John Keats, *Hyperion: A Fragment*, Book 1 (1820)

**Oct. 18**      **Epic: New Worlds**

Thomas Campbell, *Gertrude of Wyoming* (1809)  
Lydia Sigourney, *Traits of the Aborigines of America* (1822)  
Fitz-Greene Halleck, "Wyoming" (1821)  
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, *Evangeline: A Tale of Acadie* (1847)  
  
Yopie Prins, "Nineteenth-Century Homers and the Hexameter Mania" (2005)

**Oct. 25**      **Lyric**

Bring Your Own Lyrics

John Stuart Mill, "What is Poetry?" (1833)  
Edgar Allan Poe, "The Poetic Principle" (1848)  
Theodore Adorno, "On Lyric Poetry and Society" (1957)  
Jonathan Culler, "Apostrophe" (1977)  
Virginia Jackson, "Lyric" from *Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics* (2012), "Beforehand" and "Lyric Reading" from *Dickinson's Misery* (2005)

**Nov. 1**      **Ballad**

William Wordsworth, "Preface," "Goody Blake and Harry Gill," "We are Seven," and "The Thorn" from *Lyrical Ballads* (1802)  
Walter Scott, "The Lay of the Last Minstrel" (1805)  
Samuel Taylor Coleridge, "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" (1798 / 1817)  
William Makepeace Thackeray and George Cruikshank, "The Loving Ballad of Lord Bateman" (1839)

Edgar Allan Poe, "Bridal Ballad" (1837), "Ulalume" (1847)  
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, "The Wreck of the Hesperus" (1842)  
Walt Whitman, "Boston Ballad" (1855)

Frances James Child, "Preface," *English and Scottish Ballads* (1860), "Ballad Poetry" (1874)  
Susan Stewart, "Scandals of the Ballad" from *Crimes of Writing* (1991)

**Nov. 8**      **Elegy**

John Milton, "Lycidas" (1637)  
Thomas Gray, "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard" (1751)  
Percy Bysshe Shelley, "Adonais" (1821)  
Lydia Sigourney, "The Sutte" and "The Mother of Washington" (1827)  
Felicia Hemans, "The Grave of a Poetess" (1828)  
Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Threnody" (1846)  
Alfred Tennyson, *In Memoriam* esp. 1-23, 93-122, and Epilogue (1850)  
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, "The Jewish Cemetery at Newport" (1854)  
Walt Whitman, "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd" (1861)  
Matthew Arnold, "Thyrsis" (1865)

Peter Sacks, "Interpreting the Genre" from *The English Elegy* (1985)  
Max Cavitch, "Introduction" and "Retrievements out of the Night," from *American Elegy* (2007)

**Nov. 15**      **Dramatic Monologue**

William Wordsworth, "Tintern Abbey" (1798)  
Lord Byron, from *Manfred* (1816-17)  
Percy Bysshe Shelley, from *Prometheus Unbound* (1821)  
Edgar Allan Poe, "Tamerlane" (1827)  
Tennyson, "Ulysses" (1842)  
Robert Browning, "My Last Duchess," "Soliloquy of the Spanish Cloister" from *Dramatic Lyrics* (1842)  
Elizabeth Barrett Browning, "The Runaway Slave at Pilgrim's Point" (1848)  
Walt Whitman, "The Wound Dresser" (1865)  
Ada Isaacs Mencken, "Judith" (1868)

Dwight Culler, "Monodrama and the Dramatic Monologue" (1975)  
Herbert Tucker, "Dramatic Monologue and the Overhearing of Lyric" (1985)

**Nov. 20:**      **Ode**

Andrew Marvell, "Horatian Ode Upon Cromwell's Return from Ireland" (1650)  
Thomas Gray, "The Progress of Poesy: A Pindaric Ode" (1757)  
William Wordsworth, "Ode: Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of  
Early Childhood" (1807)  
John Keats, "Ode on a Grecian Urn" (1820)  
Percy Bysshe Shelley, "Ode to the West Wind" (1820)  
William Gilmore Simms, "The Lost Pleiad" (1829)  
Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Ode, Inscribed to W.H. Channing" (1847)  
Walt Whitman, "As I Ebb'd by the Ocean of Life," "Out of the Cradle, Endlessly  
Rocking" (1860)  
James Russell Lowell, "Ode, Written for the Celebration of the Introduction of the  
Water of Cochituate Lake into the City of Boston" (1848), Ode Recited at the  
Harvard Commemoration (1865)  
Frederick Goddard Tuckerman, "The Cricket" (1873)

M.H. Abrams, "Structure and Style in the Greater Romantic Lyric" (1965)

**Nov. 21**      **Thanksgiving Break**

**Nov. 29:**      **Poetic genres 1**

Henry David Thoreau, *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers* (1849)

**Dec. 6**      **Poetic genres 2**

Elizabeth Barrett Browning, *Aurora Leigh* (1856)

Mikhail Bakhtin, "Epic and Novel" (1941, repr. 1975)