**English 100W** Fall 2016 **Critical Analysis of Poetry**

**Overview**: To further develop your skills in close reading, particularly close reading of poetry, you will choose a poem (or two poems, if you’re doing a comparison) from either of our texts to critically analyze in depth.This corresponds to department learning goal one.

**Length/format:** Approximately 1250 words, typed, MLA format.

**Audience/forum:** Write for an educated audience that would be interested in poetry in general and/or this poet or poem in particular.

**Choices:** You can choose to write either an **analysis**, as described in your poetry text on pp. 515-517, or a **comparison/contrast** as described in your poetry text on pp. 517-520.

Note: If you do an analysis, you will always be discussing the meaning of the poem, so choose some element(s)—one or two--other than “theme.” Your poetry text has a more expansive discussion of types of writing, so don’t get misled in reading that chapter. You’ll get a chance to do the other kinds of writing described here (e.g. explication) in other classes.

**Due dates**: Topic proposal (typed): M 11/14 rough draft: M 12/5 final draft: M 12/12

**Procedure**:

1. **Select a type of paper** (analysis or compare/contrast) and the **poem/poems** you will work with. Note: I hope this goes without saying, but you cannot submit work to me that you wrote/are writing for another class. This is just as bad as submitting someone else’s work. In either case, you aren’t going to learn anything from it. This is cheating even if you revise an earlier paper.
2. **Write a topic proposal**: briefly identify **which kind of paper** you’ll write and which **poem/poems** you chose. Be specific about what you will be looking at, for instance: I’ll be examining tone and point of view inT.S. Eliot’s “Journey of the Magi.”
3. **Read, reread, and annotate the poem/poems** (I recommend the poetry text’s advice pp. 502-507)
4. **Optional: Read what others have said about the poem/poems**, especially the poet and professional critics. If you use their ideas or words, obviously, cite them properly.
5. **Write a full rough draft** in proper MLA format, clearly citing your sources, print out two copies, and bring them to the **peer review** on the assigned day. (You can earn 15 points *only* if you come and bring 2 full-length printed copies of the draft.) If you miss that day, you miss the points, but you still need to get a peer review before I will grade your paper.
6. **Conference** with me about your draft (optional)
7. After the peer review, consider the advice you got and **revise the paper**.
8. **Print** out the paper, after **submitting your final draft to Canvas**. Staple the final draft to the peer review sheet and the rough draft(s) you got comments on.
9. **Submit the stapled bundle** at the beginning of class on the day it is due. (If you’re late, your paper is late and will be penalized. Sorry, but it seems necessary to do this to get a full class that day.)