

**Department of Languages, Linguistics and Literary Studies**  
**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**  
**Federal University Ndufu-Alike Ikwo**

**Course Title:** Introduction to Poetry

**Course Code:** ENG 110

**Course Lecturer:** Professor G.M.T Emezue

**Course Objective:** The course deals with the nature of poetry (definition, elements, forms and functions) against the background of the nature of literature in general. Critical appreciation of poetry will include detailed investigation of meaning and application of literary devices, imagistic, figures, rhetorical figures, sound devices, rhythmical devices, grammatical and structural devices, reading of poetry, interpretation, discussing artistic features etc. Poems for the course will be African and Non-African.

**Course Outline**

- Week 1:**        **Nature, Concept, scope and characteristics of Poetry**  
Theory of ‘Content’ and ‘Form;’ Language; Explicit and Implicit situations in poetry; Review questions.
- Week 2:**        **Implications of Various Definitions of Poetry by different scholars:**  
Plato, Aristotle, T.S Eliot, William Wordsworth, John Stuart Mills, Edmund Burke, Romanus Egudu, Alexander Pope, A.E Housman, Bailey, John Reynolds, Senanu and Vincent, W.H Auden, Ebenezer Eliot, Oscar Wilde, Review Questions
- Week 3:**        **Concept of Rhythm in Poetry I: Repetitions and Rhymes**  
Word rhyme, Rhyme scheme, Phonetic rhyme, The couplet, alternate rhymes, refrain/chorus, phrasal rhymes, clausal rhymes, sentence rhymes, syntactic parallelism. Review Questions.
- Week 4:**        **Concept of Rhythm in Poetry II: Metre**  
Syllables; syllabic verse; Accentual syllabic verse; Types of Feet: Substitution of feet, Defective feet; Types of Lines; Scanning, Rhetoric variation; Types of Pauses: End line, Internal Pauses, Quantitative Variation, Forced Pauses. Review Questions
- Week 5:**        **Language of poetry I: Similarity, Contrariety, affiliation and Imagination,**  
Simile, metaphor, parable, allegory, fable, symbol, antomasia, Antithesis, parallel, epigram, oxymoron, paradox, climax., Synecdoche, metonymy, hypallage, allusion, Personification, apostrophe, invocation, hyperbole, Review Questions.
- Week 6:**        **Language of Poetry II: Circuitous, Acoustics and Construction**  
Innuendo, proverbs, pun and ambiguity, euphemism, litotes/meiosis, alliteration, assonance, consonance, onomatopoeia, rhetorical question, hendiadys, syllepsis, zeugma, pleonasm. Review questions.
- Week 7:**        **Types of Poetry I:**  
Lyric, Sonnet, Elegy/Dirge, Ballad, Ode, Mock-Heroic Poetry. Review Questions.
- Week 8:**        **Types of Poetry II:**  
Descriptive Poetry, Narrative Poetry, Dramatic Poetry, Satiric Poetry, Metaphysical Poetry, Romantic Poetry, Negritude Poetry, Civil War Poetry. Review Questions.

- Week 9: Steps towards Poetry Appreciation I:**  
Titles, Context, Speaker, Images. Review Questions.
- Week 10: Steps Towards Poetry Appreciation II:**  
Diction, Rhythm, Stanza, Lines, Theme. Review Questions.
- Week 11: Poetry Practical: Recitation, Writing, Criticism**
- Week 12: Poetry Practical: Recitation, Writing, Criticism**
- Week 13: General Revision**

**Some Recommended Poems**

- “Hurrah for Thunder” by Christopher Okigbo  
 “Death be not proud” by John Donne  
 “When in Disgrace” by William Shakespeare  
 “Mourning Song for Rangiaho” by Te Heuheu Herea  
 “La belle dame sans merci” by John Keats  
 “Ogun” (Traditional poem)  
 “Doughnuts”  
 “A Voice from the dead” by Oswald Mitshali  
 “My Last duchess” by Robert Browning  
 “The Solitary reaper” by William Wordsworth  
 “I wandered lonely as a cloud” by William Wordsworth  
 “Stanley meets Mutesa” Rubadiri  
 “The Fence” Lenrie Peters  
 “To the Tune of Pusa man” by Wen Lingyun  
 “If we must die” Claude Mckay  
 “I will pronounce your name” by Leopold Senghor  
 “Terror” by Peter Onwudinjo  
 “Unspoken Agonies” by Peter Onwudinjo  
 “The Epidemic” by Chinwizu  
 “The vultures” by David Diop  
 “They too are the earth” by Niyi Osundare  
 “The Psalm of Life” by Longfellow

**Course Requirements:**

Mandatory Class Attendance		
Quizzes/Mid Semester Exam	=	30 marks
Semester Examination	=	70 marks