

Poetry in America for High Schools: 1850-1945

Overview

Drawing from the acclaimed *Poetry in America* PBS series, **Poetry in America, 1850-1945** spans a critical era in American literature, beginning with antebellum and Civil War poetry and taking us through the transformative Modernist era. Featuring a combination of video tutorials and conversations, archival images and texts, expeditions to historic literary sites, sample classroom visits, and practical exercises designed to engage learners and support skills development, this course introduces content and techniques intended to help students and educators learn how to read texts of increasing complexity. It complements AP US History, AP English Literature and Composition, and AP English Language and Composition.

Watch the Trailer (Part 1): <https://bit.ly/497NNjG> | **Watch the Trailer (Part 2):** <https://bit.ly/427CfuJ>

What You'll Learn

Our study opens with the poetry of the American Civil War and the series of major events and movements that followed, including Reconstruction, Jim Crow, industrialization, and urbanization.

As we enter the 20th century, we encounter Modernism, a movement spanning the 1910s to the mid-1940s whose poetry marked a clear break from past traditions and forms. Students will encounter works of art across media—painting, sculpture, film, architecture, and dance, as well as poetry.

Prerequisites and Requirements

These courses are suitable for students who have the requisite readiness for college-level work in English and can benefit from the college preparation and credential of mastery this experience offers. English language fluency is required for this course.

This course is especially recommended for juniors and seniors, although younger students are also welcome to enroll. All learners should have baseline study and time management skills that will enable them to succeed.

What You'll Gain

- ✓ **3 undergraduate credits from ASU** upon successful completion of the course
- ✓ **Strategies for reading and analyzing complex texts** that can be applied to any text you encounter—from poetry, to fiction, to news articles and everything in between
- ✓ **Introduction to college-level literature and writing** through an interdisciplinary and inter-artistic approach

Key Details

Dates

Tues, 1/21 – Tues, 4/39*

*Materials open Tues, 1/7, for a 2-week orientation period.

To Register

Groups:

<https://forms.gle/7je9YEUBntbtNDVo6>

Individual Learners:

email ulc.partner@asu.edu

Pricing and Scholarships

Cost: \$425 per learner (\$25 up front; 400 for ASU credit)*

*Title I schools and selected educational partners may be eligible for a lower rate (\$250 per learner).

To inquire: ulc.partner@asu.edu

Poetry in America for High Schools

What Are Universal Learner Courses®?

Universal Learner Courses® (ULCs) connect high-school students with low-cost, highly transferable college credit in a supportive environment. ULCs help students build confidence and college readiness while decreasing their time to (and cost of) degree completion. More flexible than traditional dual enrollment courses, ULCs empower schools and their students to determine the right combination of high school and college credit for them. Students are eligible for ASU credit if they earn a C or above, but the decision to add their grade to an ASU transcript—or not—is theirs to make.

Poetry in America Universal Learner Courses®

Poetry in America ULCs, although rigorous, have seen remarkably high completion and success rates among high-schoolers: on average, 72.6% of high-school students who complete at least one assignment are eligible for ASU credit at semester's end. These highly engaging, culturally relevant courses provide an excellent opportunity for students to grow their critical thinking, reading, and writing skills—as well as to promote their social and emotional learning. Upcoming Poetry in America ULCs include:

- Poetry in America: The City from Whitman to Hip Hop (Fall 2024)
- Poetry in America, 1850-1945 (Spring 2025)

How To Participate (Instructions for School Groups)

1. Select Students and Help Them Register

Any high school student who meets the requirements listed on the first page of this document is eligible to participate. To begin the group registration process, complete this form: <https://forms.gle/7je9YEUBntbtNDVo6>.

2. Select a Co-Teacher

Each school should select a Co-Teacher who will act in a facilitation and coaching role. The Poetry in America course team will provide comprehensive instruction, but the Co-Teacher plays a crucial role in supporting student success. The Co-Teacher is not responsible for grading student work that counts toward the ASU grade.

Co-Teachers are strongly encouraged to participate in **Poetry in America for Educators professional development intensives**. Learn more: <https://ea.asu.edu/partners/piae/>.

3. Provide Access to Computers and Internet

All students and teachers need to have access to a computer and stable Internet at school to participate in the online course. Students will likely not be able to complete all coursework during their dedicated class period (if your school is able to offer one), and so providing Internet and computer access before and after school is recommended. If you have students taking this course who will be learning from home full- or part-time, it will be extremely important that they have access to a reliable computer and stable Internet access.

4. Make a Dual Credit Determination

We recommend that schools offer this course for dual credit—allowing students to earn high-school credit along with college credit from Arizona State University, but it is up to each school, district, or state to determine if and how high-school credit will be applied. If you decide to award high-school credit, the course team recommends counting it as a core English course. An overview of course standards alignment can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2NXLlbu>.

Learn More: ulc.partner@asu.edu

Course Creators



Elisa New

**Director, ASU Center for Public Humanities;
Director and Host, PBS's *Poetry in America***

Elisa New is the Director and Host of *Poetry in America*, director of the Center for Public Humanities at Arizona State University, director of Verse Video Education, and Powell M. Cabot Professor of American Literature at Harvard University. New created *Poetry in America*, a PBS series, to bring poetry into living rooms and onto screens of all kinds. Guests include Joe Biden, Herbie Hancock, Gloria Estefan, Shaquille O'Neal, Elena Kagan, Nas, John McCain, Sonia Sanchez, Tony Kushner, Bill Clinton, Julia Alvarez, Bono, Cynthia Nixon, John Kerry, LisaGay Hamilton, Caroline Kennedy, Katie Couric, Al Gore, and David Strathairn. Along with the series, New produces educational materials on American poetry for all ages—from middle- and high-school students, to K-12 teachers, to lifelong learners—distributed by Harvard University, Amplify Education, and Arizona State University.



Gillian Osborne

**Director of Curriculum, Center for Public
Humanities; Instructor, *Poetry in America***

Gillian Osborne holds a Ph.D. (2014) in English from the University of California, Berkeley, and a B.A. (2006) in Comparative Literature from Columbia University. From 2015-2017, she was a postdoctoral fellow in English at the Harvard University Center for the Environment. She is the author of a collection of essays, *Green Green Green* (Nightboat Books 2021) and the co-editor of a collection of critical essays on environmental poetry, *Ecopoetics: Essays in the Field* (2018). Other publications include poetry and reviews; scholarship on Emily Dickinson, Henry David Thoreau, Herman Melville; and nonfiction essays on the imagination of motherhood and the politics of foraged foods at fancy restaurants. Gillian has taught courses in writing and/or literature for the Harvard Extension School, UC-Berkeley, Bard College, the Prison University Program at San Quentin, and elsewhere.