

# Poetry Since 1900

EN 4/6823, Fall 2019  
9:00-9:50 MWF

Prof. West  
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## BOOKS:

Eliot, T. S. *Four Quartets*. (ISBN: 0156332256)  
Ramazani, Jahan, Richard Ellmann, and Robert O'Clair, eds. *The Norton Anthology of Modern and Contemporary Poetry*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Vol. 1. (ISBN: 0-393-97791-9)

## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This semester the course will offer a study of major English-language poets active in the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, focusing primarily on work by poets of England and Ireland: William Butler Yeats, Mina Loy, T. S. Eliot (who was born an American citizen but at the age of 39 became a British subject), Wilfred Owen, Stevie Smith, and W. H. Auden (who was born a British subject but at the age of 39 became an American citizen). We'll also pay some attention to work by poets who were lifelong Americans but lived for a time in England and/or continental Europe: Robert Frost, Ezra Pound, and H.D.

## WRITTEN WORK:

There will be three exams, two papers, and a reading journal.

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After all, it's rather a privilege  
amid the affluent traffic  
to serve this unpopular art which cannot be turned into  
background noise for study  
or hung as a status trophy by rising executives,  
cannot be "done" like Venice  
or abridged like Tolstoy, but stubbornly still insists upon  
being read or ignored . . .

— W. H. Auden, from "The Cave of Making,"  
part III of his "Thanksgiving for a Habitat"