English 131: Poetry and Drama

Instructor: John Kurpiel

English 131 offers an introduction to reading and interpreting poetry and drama, with an emphasis on introductory approaches to critical theory, including Performance Studies, Gender and Sexuality Studies, and Critical Race. The course will explore a range of historical periods, cultures, and literary traditions, placing canonical writers such as Shakespeare, Wordsworth, and Keats in conversation with modern and contemporary voices from around the world. From Shakespeare's *The Tempest* and Aimé Césaire's postcolonial adaptation *A Tempest* to contemporary poetry and experimental performance, we will explore how writers adopt, challenge, transform, and even break literary conventions.

Potential readings include:

William Shakespeare • John Keats • Emily Dickinson • Langston Hughes • Aimé Césaire • Audre Lorde • Derek Walcott • Ocean Vuong