

Memo regarding English 299, Spring 2025

Hello, and thanks for considering my Introduction to the Genre of Poetry class. The course will be HYBRID: Lecture will take place on Zoom, while sections will all be in person. It is an excellent course, and I am excited to work with you.

Here is our reading list:

Susan Holbrook. *How to Read & Write about Poetry*. (Required)—this is our ‘textbook’ which will help us with history and terminology, etc.

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- Lucille Clifton. *How to Carry Water: Selected Poems of Lucille Clifton*. (Required)—a selected greatest hits volume by a great American poet of the second half of the 20th century (twice a finalist for the Pulitzer in the 1980s/90s)
- Amorak Huey. *Dad Jokes from Late in the Patriarchy*. (Required)—wonderful volume about family, parenthood, and pop culture
- Natasha Trethewey. *Monument*. (Required)—selected poems from the Pulitzer Prize winning poet and memoirist, former US Poet Laureate (poems from 1999-2019)
- Two volumes by the poet Kate Daniels, *NIOBE POEMS* (1988) and *IN THE MONTHS OF MY SON’S RECOVERY* (2019)—both are available online through USC libraries in ebooks; the first is a family memoir in poetry about the drowning of a child and its aftermath; the second is a very candid poetic rendition of the poet’s journey (as a mother, a wife, and a woman in her 60s) through her son’s opioid addiction and recovery in the past decade.