COURSE DETAIL

THE CARE & FEEDING OF LONG POEMS
Country Ireland
Host Institution Trinity College Dublin
Program(s) Trinity College Dublin
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) English
UCEAP Course Number 132
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title THE CARE & FEEDING OF LONG POEMS
UCEAP Transcript Title LONG POEMS
UCEAP Quarter Units 10.00
UCEAP Semester Units 6.70

Course Description

This course takes a close look at a number of important ‘long poems’ and poetic sequences from the later decades of the twentieth century to the present. Considering nine representative poets from the United States, Great Britain, and Ireland, it discusses the formal and thematic decisions made by poets in the creation of their works. The course looks to define the length of a ‘long poem’ and examines the relationship between the long poem and the poetic sequence. It considers whether all ‘long poems’ or poetic sequences function as ‘epics’, and explores the relationship between the long poem and the lyric. It also addresses the concept of the ‘novel in verse’. Following Berryman’s Dream Song 354, the course engages with the idea of ‘The Care & Feeding of Long Poems’, focusing on influence and the role of sources in the critical engagement with longer poetic works. It examines how such works are maintained and sustained through reading and interpretation, and considers the cultural effects of long poems and poetry more broadly, including their potential harm or benefit to culture.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
ENU44121

Host Institution Course Title
THE CARE & FEEDING OF LONG POEMS

Host Institution Course Details
https://www.tcd.ie/media/tcd/english/pdfs/%C3%A2%C2%80%C2%98The-Care--Feeding-o...

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
English

Course Last Reviewed
2025-2026

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