

Autumn 2022  
ANG 1001: Reading Poetry  
Prof. Jane Malcolm  
M 9-12h  
Z-255 Pav. Claire-McNicholl  
[jane.malcolm@umontreal.ca](mailto:jane.malcolm@umontreal.ca)  
C-8120 Pavillon Lionel-Groulx  
Office Hours: TBD

How do we read poetry? Do we read it at all? Our present moment has seen language and text transformed, contorted, redacted, and reduced into increasingly smaller pieces of informational code. POETRY, which, even before the alphabet, *\*was\** literature, arguably has become a niche genre in our culture, written and read by the few. Or has it? What if we imagine that poetry today is as viable an expression of culture, philosophy, politics, personality, and the vitality of language as it was during the Renaissance or the nineteenth century? This course aims to enliven the poetic genre and dispense with any skepticism about its difficulty or elitism. Poetry, *the act*, and poetics, *the theory behind that act*, are as vital as ever. We will read from the beginnings of poetry in English, which sets the stage for hotly debated formal traditions, to the present, in which poets continue to reinvigorate older verse structures, even as they create new and radical poetic languages and experiments.