

# Literature Institute

## Study Guide

### LIT 521 Poetry

**Instructions for the Study Guide:** Please use the questions to develop a deeper understanding of the text and to review the concepts. As you read, consider the questions. Keeping careful notes or a journal will help you prepare to write the essays at the end of each section as well as the final essay. Your required and supplemental readings can be found in the "Readings" file.

**Instructions for Essays:** Please write a 1,250 – 1,500 word essay that responds to the essay questions. Then, send your essay to your professor. You may send an outline and drafts to your instructor for feedback and guidance before you send your finished essay.

**Instructions for Final Essay:** Please write a 5,000 word essay that responds to the essay questions. Then, send your essay to your professor. You may send an outline and drafts to your instructor for feedback and guidance before you send your finished essay.

Supplemental Reading is optional and is indicated by shading.

UNIT/ WEEKS/ AUTHORS	TOPIC / WORK	INTRODUCTION
I		<b>Early Poetry (to 1500 A.D)</b>
1-2	Ancient Poetry	
	<i>Gilgamesh</i>	Gilgamesh was an historical king of Uruk in Babylonia, on the River Euphrates in modern Iraq; he lived about 2700 B.C. Many stories and myths were written about Gilgamesh, some of which were written down about 2000 B.C. in the Sumerian language on clay tablets which still survive; the Sumerian language, as far as we know, bears no relation to any other human language we know about. These Sumerian Gilgamesh stories were integrated into a longer poem, versions of which survive not only in Akkadian (the Semitic language, related to Hebrew, spoken by the Babylonians) but also on tablets written in Hurrian and Hittite (an Indo-European language, a family of languages which includes Greek and English, spoken in Asia Minor). All the above languages were written in the script known as cuneiform, which means "wedge-shaped." The fullest surviving version, is derived from twelve stone tablets, in the Akkadian language, found in the ruins of the library of Ashurbanipal, king of Assyria 669-633 B.C., at Nineveh. The library was destroyed by the Persians in 612 B.C., and all the tablets are damaged. <a href="http://www.wsu.edu/~dee/MESO/GILG.HTM">http://www.wsu.edu/~dee/MESO/GILG.HTM</a>
Homer	<i>Odyssey</i>	The younger of the two surviving ancient Greek epic poems, traditionally ascribed to Homer but containing much orally transmitted material composed over several centuries, and concerning the adventures and ordeals of the Greek warrior Odysseus after the fall of Troy as he struggles to return home and reestablish himself as king of Ithaca. <a href="http://www.answers.com/topic/odyssey">http://www.answers.com/topic/odyssey</a>
Vergil	<i>Aeneid</i>	The Aeneid is Latin epic poem by Vergil, in which the poet recounts the adventures of Aeneas after the fall of Troy.
Sappho	<i>Poems</i>	Greek lyric poet considered one of the greatest poets of antiquity although only fragments of her romantic lyrics survive. Little is known of her life and what little information we do have comes from her poetry, which consists of one complete poem, several long fragments, and countless smaller pieces.

Women were her main objects of affection.

**Catullus**      *Poems*

3                  Medieval Poetry

**Anonymous**    *Beowulf*

*Song of Roland*

**Dante**            *Inferno*

*Medieval Love  
Lyrics*

## **II**                                  **Early Modern Poetry**

4-5                Renaissance Poetry

**Milton**            *Paradise Lost*

**Anonymous**    *Renaissance Love  
Lyrics*

**Petrarch**         *II Canzonieri*

**Shakespeare**   *Sonnets*

6                  Enlightenment  
Poetry

**Pope**              *Rape of the Lock*

## **III**                                **Modern Poetry**

7-8                Nineteenth Century  
Poetry

**Whitman**         *Song of Myself*

**Wordsworth**    *Poems*

**Heine**             *Poems*

**Baudelaire**     *Poems*

9-10              Twentieth-Century  
Poetry

**Eliot**              *Wasteland*

**Rilke**             *Poems*

**Garcia Lorca**    *Poems*

## **IV**                                **Asian Poetry**

11                 Indian Poetry

**Anonymous**    *Ramayana*

**Anonymous**    *Mahabharata*

**Anonymous**    *Devotional Poetry*

**Ghalib**            *Gazals*

12 Chinese Poetry

**Anonymous** *Song of Songs*

**Tang  
Dynasty  
Poets** *Poems*

13 Japanese Poetry

**Anonymous** *Manyoshu*

**Anonymous** *Kokinshu*

**Basho** *Journey to the  
Interior*

**V African Poetry**

14 African Poetry

**Anonymous** *Sunjata*

**Senghor** *Poems*

**VI Latin American Poetry**

15 Latin American  
Poetry

**Neruda** *Poems*

**VII Finals**

Review, Annotated Bibliography, Research Paper