

Comic Currents in American Poetry

English 340.001

American poetry has a rich comic tradition -- from Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson (two underrated jesters) to contemporary poets like Dora Malech and Loren Goodman (whose poem "The Party" reads, in full, "Invite Don Rickles"). In this course, we'll examine various currents within the tradition, paying particular attention to crosscurrents: that point where the comic and tragic meet. As John Berryman wrote, "to make laugh, and to hurt, / is and was all he ever intended."

FALL 2011

M/W 1-2:30pm

This course satisfies the American Literature and Poetry requirements for English Concentrators.

Professor Cody Walker

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