

Spring 2025 Course Syllabus

TITLE: The Poetry of Emily Dickinson

Presenter: Judith Saunders Syllabus

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A major poet by world standards, and a towering presence in the American literary tradition, Emily Dickinson addresses a wide range of topics in her poetry: nature, art, and—above all—the individual self confronting social conventions, intimate relationships, metaphysical questions, emotional quandaries, and the "finite infinity" of the world within. As we explore her treatment of these issues, we'll examine her innovative handling of rhyme, syntax, and punctuation, considering her formal influence on twentieth-century English-language poetry.

Please Note: we'll be using *Final Harvest, Emily Dickinson's Poems, selected by Thomas H. Johnson* (available in paperback from Back Bay Books/Little, Brown; participants will need to acquire a copy.