

English 3396: The Erotic as Devotion in British and American Poetry  
Dr. Martha Serpas

This course will focus on theological interpretations of metaphysical, romantic, modern, and contemporary poems in order to challenge discrete notions of poetic representation: namely the erotic figured only as physical expression, belief as intellectual, and faith as spiritual. We will focus on Donne, Dickinson, and Glück and also read poems by Herbert, Hopkins, Whitman, O'Hara, Sexton, and others to investigate the poetic strategies that enable integration of human experiences often labeled either profane or sacred.