

## Syllabus for Seamus Heaney: The President's Poet

Text: Seamus Heaney *Opened Ground: Selected Poems, 1966-1996*

- ISBN-10 : 0374526788
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1. 1966: ***Death of a Naturalist***

- Digging
- Death of a Naturalist
- Blackberry-Picking
- Churning Day
- At a Potato Digging
- Personal Helicon

2. 1969: ***Door in the Dark***

- The Forge
- Thatcher
- The Wife's Tale
- A Lough Neagh Sequence
- Bogland

3. 1972 ***Wintering Out***

- Fodder
- Bog Oak
- The Backward Look
- The Tollund man
- Serenades
- Shore Woman

4. 1975: ***North***

- Funeral Rites
- North
- Viking Dublin: Trial Pieces
- Bone Dreams
- Bog Queen
- Punishment
- Hercules and Antaeus
- The Tollund man

5. ***North*** Continued

- Singing School
  - 1. The Ministry of Fear
  - 2. A Constable Calls
  - 3. Orange Drums, Tyrone, 1966
  - 4. Summer 1969
  - 5. Fosterage
  - 6. Exposure

6. 1979: ***Field Work***

- Oysters
- Triptych

- After a Killing
  - Sibyl
  - At the Water's Edge
  - The Otter
  - The Skunk
  - The Strand at Lough Beg
  - The Badgers
7. **Field Work** Continued
- Glanmore Sonnets
  - Field Work
  - The Harvest Bow
  - Ugolino
8. 1984: **Station Island**
- Chekhov on Sakhalin
  - A Bat on the Road
  - A Hazel Stick for Catherine Ann
  - A Kite for Michael and Christopher
  - The Railway Children
9. **Station Island** Continued
- Station Island I-XII

10. 1987: **The Haw Lantern**
- Alphabets
  - Terminus
  - The Haw Lantern
  - From the Republic of Conscience
  - Clearances: In Memoriam M.K.H.
  - Wolfe Tone

11. 1991: **Seeing Things**
- The Golden Bough

**PART I**

- Markings
- Man and Boy
- An August Night
- Field of Vision
- The Pitchfork
- The Settle Bed

12. 1996: **The Spirit Level**
- The Rain Stick
  - St Kevin and the Blackbird
  - Mycenae Lookout 1. The Watchman's War
  - Mycenae Lookout 2. Cassandra
  - Mycenae Lookout 3. His Dawn Vision
  - Mycenae Lookout 4. The Nights
  - Mycenae Lookout 5. The Reverie of Water

- The Gravel Walks
- 'Poet's Chair'
- The Swing

The purpose of the course is to do a careful reading of the poetry of Seamus Heaney, the great Irish Poet and Nobel Laureate.

The President has spoken publicly how he recited this poetry (together with the poetry W. B. Yeats) to break his stuttering habit and also of his great admiration of the poet.

Heaney is in the traditions of W. B. Yeats and Robert Frost.

There will be some Yeats and Frost.

Open discussion with recorded readings by the poet.