This is a course with a mobile syllabus, since we will be making connections partly on the basis of what poems students already know and what poems they don’t. The reading will mainly come out of *The Norton Anthology of Poetry*, with some supplementary hand-outs and links.

The breakdown of the course will be as follows:

Week 1: Rhyme

Week 2: Meter

Week 3: Lines

Week 4: Stanzas

Week 5: Metaphors

This breakdown is more schematic than the course will be, however, since each topic will certainly require some attention to the others. Rhyme will anticipate how lines work, for example, and some metaphors will pay explicit attention to meter. (“Why wear / Since it had never fit, the shoe of prose? / In verse the feet went bare.” — James Merrill, in a poem referring to poetic feet as well as running barefoot.)

Because this is a writing intensive course, there will be a short assignment every week — 250-500 words — and a longer revision (500-700 words) combining and linking two of the short assignments due at the end.