

The Black Mountain Poets

Enikő Bollobás

English 410/510, Spring 1996

Tue-Thu 14:00-15:20

Friendly Hall 217

Office hours: Wed 1-3

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April 2 Modernist predecessors: Imagism

April 4 Modernist predecessors: Imagism, Williams, Stein

Readings: poems on handouts; *Ezra Pound, "A Retrospect"

*Gy. Kodolányi, "'The Red Wheelbarrow" and the Changing ..."

April 9 The two traditions of modernism

Readings: *Marjorie Perloff, "Unreal Cities"

April 11 Modernism/postmodernism

Readings: *Charles Altieri, "From Symbolist Thought to Immanence"

April 16 The Black Mountain College

Readings: Bollobás, Charles Olson, ch. I (1-14)

April 18 Black Mountain poetics: Charles Olson

Readings: Charles Olson, "Projective Verse" (Hoover)

Bollobás, Charles Olson, 15-26

April 23 Black Mountain philosophy

Readings: *Charles Olson, "Human Universe"

Bollobás, Charles Olson, 27-35.

April 25 Projectivism in practice

Readings: Bollobás, Charles Olson, 36-65.

April 30 Olson's poetry

Readings: the Olson section in Hoover (3-17)

+ optional: Bollobás, Charles Olson, 66-111.

May 2 Robert Duncan

Readings: Duncan, "Equilibrations" (Hoover, 626-628)

+ the Duncan poetry section in Hoover (29-41)

May 7 Duncan's poetry

Readings: poems on handouts

May 9 Denise Levertov

Readings: Levertov, "Some Notes on Organic Form" (Hoover, 628-633)

+ the Levertov poetry section in Hoover (86-92)

May 14 Levertov's poetry

Readings: poems on handouts

May 16 Robert Creeley

Readings: Creeley, "To Define," "Form" (Hoover, 637-640)

+ the Creeley poetry section in Hoover (143-155)

May 21 Creeley's poetry

Readings: poems on handouts

May 23 Ed Dorn

Readings: poems on handouts

May 28 The oral impulse: John Cage & Buckminster Fuller

Dance: Merce Cunningham

Readings: Cage texts in Hoover (17-26, 621-626)

+ Jerome Rothenberg, "New Models, ..." (Hoover, 640-645)

PRESENTATIONS

May 30 Arts at Black Mountain College: Kline, de Kooning, Pollock

Readings: on handouts

PRESENTATIONS

June 4 Philosophers: Whitehead & Dewey

Gestalt psychology: Paul Goodman

Readings: on handouts

PRESENTATIONS

June 6 Wrapping up: Late postmodernism & the Black Mountain legacy

In addition to the readings specified in this syllabus, we shall always try to read and discuss other poems as well. I will pick and xerox these poems, but you too are encouraged to make your recommendations and/or bring the poems (or just give them to me in time so that I can make copies).

Required texts: Postmodern American Poetry, ed. Paul Hoover

Enikő Bollobás, Charles Olson (Twayne, 1992).

Readings marked with an asterisk (*) have been collected into a small packet.

Grades shall be based on (i) class participation, (ii) presentations and (iii) a term paper.

Presentations: each student is expected to prepare for "taking the floor" 2-3 times, for 3-5 minutes each time, during discussions. You can be very creative and imaginative as to the genre and topicality of these interventions. Some of you may (also/only) wish to give a lengthier and more formal presentation (15-20 minutes) on one of the last three topic clusters. The 10-15 page term paper is due June 6; I would like you to discuss your topic of choice with me before starting to work on it.