

Instructor: Enikő Bollobás

May Summer Session, 1998

11:00-1:30 daily; 218 EPB

office hrs: 10:10-11:00 daily

in Honors/Emeritus Lounge (EPB 3rd floor)

or by appt in 262 International Center

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## **American Poets since 1945**

**(008:125 Modern British and American Poetry)**

### **Syllabus**

#### **Week 1**

#### **MONDAY**

#### **Modernist predecessors**

Modernist predecessors: Imagism, Williams, Stein

Readings: • poems on handouts (Williams, Pound)

#### **TUESDAY**

#### **The Black Mountain College**

#### **Charles Olson/1**

Readings: • "Tanto e Amara," "The K," "Moonset, Gloucester, December 1, 1957, 1:58, AM," "The Moon Is the Number 18 "  
(poems on handouts)

• "Projective Verse" (essay in Hoover)

Presentation: review of "Human Universe"

#### **WEDNESDAY**

#### **Charles Olson/2**

Readings: • poems in the Hoover anthology, esp. "In Cold Hell, in Thicket,"  
"The Librarian"

• "Variations Done for Gerald Van De Wiele" (handout)

## THURSDAY

### Charles Olson/3

Readings: • "The Kingfishers" (on handout)

Presentation: review of Ralph Maud, "What Does Not Change ..."

## FRIDAY

### Robert Duncan

Readings:

- "Often I am Permitted to Return to a Meadow," "The Torso,"  
"A Poem Beginning with a Line by Pindar," "Poetry, a Natural Thing,"  
"Songs of an Other," "Close" (Hoover)
- "My Mother Would Be a Falconress," "The Structure of Rhyme, XI," "Stein  
Imitations," "The Dance" (handout)
- please have something to say on "My Mother Would Be..."

Presentation/1: review of "The Homosexual in Society"

Presentation/2: review of "Ideas of the Meaning of Form," Towards an Open Universe"

## Week 2

### MONDAY Memorial Day

## TUESDAY

### Denise Levertov

Readings:

- poems in Hoover, esp. "Illustrious Ancestors," "The Wings," "Stepping  
Westward"
- "Beyond the End," "The Jacob's Ladder," "Three Meditations,"  
"The Necessity," "Hypocrite Women," "Modes of Being," "Ways of  
Conquest," "With Eyes at the Back of our Heads," "In Memory of  
Muriel Rukeyser," "The Stonecarver's Poem" (handout)
- "Some Notes on Organic Form" (essay in Hoover)

## WEDNESDAY

### Robert Creeley

Readings: • poems in Hoover, esp. "Forms of Women," "Rain," "For Love," "I Keep to  
Myself," "The World," "Self-Portrait," "Age"

- Man,”
- "The Door," "The Pool," "Some Place," "The Warning," "I Know a  
"The Language" (handout)
  - "To Define," "Form" (essays in Hoover)

## THURSDAY

### Ed Dorn

- Readings:
- poems in Hoover, esp. "The Rick of Green Wood," "Geranium,"  
"From Gloucester Out"
  - "Idaho Out," "If It Should Ever Come," "The Deer's Eye The Hunter's  
Nose," "my speech is tinged," "Song," "Like a Message on Sunday"  
(handout)

### Black Mountain performing

Video tape: Merce Cunningham, John Cage

Presentation: review of Mary Emma Harris's The Arts at Black Mountain College

## FRIDAY

### San Francisco/New York

- Readings:
- that
- the Lawrence Ferlinghetti section in Hoover, esp. "In Golden Gate Park  
day," "Constantly risking absurdity," "I Am Waiting"
  - the Jack Spicer section in Hoover
  - the Allen Ginsberg section in Hoover, esp. Howl, "A Supermarket in  
California," Kaddish I, "To Aunt Rose"; essay "Notes for Howl ..."
  - the Gregory Corso section in Hoover, esp. "Marriage"
  - the Gary Snyder section in Hoover, esp. "Ri-rap," "The Bath," "As for  
Poets"
  - the Michael McLure section in Hoover

Presentation: The Beat generation (research)

## Week 3

### MONDAY

#### The oral impulse: David Antin and Jerome Rotheberg

- Readings:
- David Antin, texts in Hoover
  - Rothenberg, texts in Hoover (essay too)

Presentation: Performance poetry (research)

#### Clayton Eshleman, Robert Kelly, Diane Wakoski

- Readings:
- Eshleman's poems in Hoover
  - Kelly's poems in Hoover, esp. "The Rainmakers," "A Woman With Flaxen Hair"
  - Wakoski's poems in Hoover, esp. "Blue Monday," "Hummingbird Light"

Presentation: Eshleman's descent to underworlds (research)

### TUESDAY

#### The L=A=N=G=U=A=G=E Poets/1

- Readings:
- Michael Davidson's poems in Hoover, esp. "The Form of Chiasmus ..."; "The Landing of Rochambeau" (handout)
  - Lyn Hejinian, My Life; from essay "The Rejection of Closure" (Hoover)
  - the Michael Palmer section in Hoover
  - essays in Hoover by Susan Howe, Clark Coolidge, and Lyn Hejinian

Presentation: review of Charles Bernstein's "Thought's Measure"

### WEDNESDAY

#### The L=A=N=G=U=A=G=E Poets/2

- the Ron Silliman poetry section in Hoover
- the Bruce Andrews poetry section in Hoover
- the Bob Perelman poetry section in Hoover
- essays in Hoover by Ron Silliman and Bruce Andrews

Presentation: the Electronic Poetry Center (<http://wings.buffalo.edu/epc>)

### THURSDAY

#### The L=A=N=G=U=A=G=E Poets/3

- the Barrett Watten poetry section in Hoover
- the Rae Armantrout poetry section in Hoover
- the Charles Bernstein poetry section in Hoover
- essay in Hoover by Charles Bernstein

- the Electronic Poetry Center (<http://wings.buffalo.edu/epc>)

## **FRIDAY**

### **Wrapping up**

Assignment: write experimental poetry modelled on one of the poets read in class

Required text: Postmodern American Poetry. A Norton Anthology, ed. Paul Hoover.

Grades shall be based on (i) class participation, (ii) an oral presentation and (iii) a term paper. Students are expected to do the assigned readings (ca. 2hrs/day) for each class, and creatively participate in the discussions. Also, you are required to do one oral presentation of 15-20 minutes: either the summary and critical review of an essay or book (during the first part of the session), or the presentation of some research (towards the end of the session). The absolute deadline of the ca. 10 page term paper is 10 a.m. Monday, June 8. You can either expand your oral presentation in the term paper or discuss other poets or topics dealt with in class.