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Description.

This is an introduction to the writing of poetry today, and since no writing is done in a vacuum (we learn every word we know from someone else), we will read our way through some of the important work of the past, work which has shaped how we think, feel, speak and write. I expect our class time to be devoted about equally to assigned reading and student writing, and I expect our discussions will be animated and far-ranging.

Texts.

Allen and Butterick, The Postmoderns.
Basho, Back Roads to Far Towns.
Rothenberg and Joris: Poems for the Millenium.
Snyder, No Nature.
Whitman, Leaves of Grass.
Williams, Imaginations.

Requirements and Expectations.

• Weekly writing assignments derived from our readings. (You will be expected to make 5 copies of your work for distribution to the class.) (30% of grade)

• Midterm essay and portfolio. (20% of grade)

• A final selection of 20 pages of work (of which half may be derived from class assignments) due on the last day of class. (30% of grade)

• Two essays, also due on the final day of class. The first of these will relate your work to our class reading. The second will offer a close reading of a text you especially prize or find influential. (20% of grade)

• Two conferences.

• Regular attendance and participation. You will be allowed two cuts. Thereafter, your final grade will be lowered by one letter for each absence.

• You must complete all course requirements punctually to receive a passing grade.

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive accommodations, which I will gladly provide, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.
Readings.

1. Limits?

   Whitman, *Song of Myself*.

   From Rothenberg and Joris:

   Blake, 21-23.
   Apollinaire, 119, 128-129
   Marinetti, 199.
   Depero, 213-215.
   Kamensky, 222.
   DADA, 289-326.
   Johnny John, 756.
   MacLow, 772.
   Bacharach, 790-792.
   Gaffarel, 793.

2. What do you see?

   Williams, *Spring and All* (from *Imaginations*).
   Levertov, in Allen and Butterick.

   Readings from Rothenberg and Joris:

   Reznikoff, 546-551.
   Ungaretti, 177.
   Williams, 529-533.
   Hughes, 651-655.
   (Photocopies.)

3. How well do you sleep?

   Reading from Rothenberg and Joris.
   Rimbaud, 42-43.
   Jacob, 112-118.
   Apollinaire, 119-131.
   Reverdy, 180-184.
   Huidobro, 185-189.
   Surrealism, 465-517.

4. What do you think?

   Dickinson (poems TBA)
   Stevens (poems TBA)

   Readings from Rothenberg and Joris.
   Hopkins, 37-38.
   Mallarme, 53-75.
   Stein, 99-105; 346-351.
   Schwerner, 777.

5. Selected Contemporaries.

   Ginsberg.
   Creeley.
   Di Prima.
   Rich.
   Scalapino.
   Sexton.
   Snyder.