

Fall 8-15-2005

# ENG 3704-001: Contemporary American Literature

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Professor Martone  
English 3704-001  
Fall Semester, 2005  
MWF 10:00-10:50 CH3290  
Office hours: MWF 11:00 – 11:50

3704-001

### *Revolutions of the Word*

#### **Required Texts**

Charters, *The Portable Beat Reader*.  
hooks, *Bone Black*.  
Kerouac, *On the Road*.  
Levertov, *Selected Poems*.  
Plath, *The Bell Jar*.  
Snyder, *No Nature*.

Packet of photocopies.

#### **Course Description**

We will explore some of the American literary revolutions that followed the second world war, with attention to how those revolutions responded the larger culture's preoccupations. The course falls roughly into three parts: an overview of the Beat generation, a study of three women's autobiographies, and close readings of selected "projectivist" poets and their descendents.

#### **Expectations and Evaluation**

I expect you to attend class and to do the reading. More than two absences *for any reason* will lower your final grade.

60% of grade: Three 3-5 page essays (topics TBA) due on:  
September 23  
October 28  
December 5

20% of grade: Unannounced reading quizzes and hourly mid-term examination.

20% of grade: Final examination.

***1. the madman bum and angel***

August 22 – 26

Introduction, context.

Allen Ginsberg, *Howl*, *Sunflower Sutra*, *America* (Charters 66).

August 29 – September 2

Ginsberg, *Kaddish* (Charters 77), *Wichita Vortex Sutra* (Charters 544).

September 7 - 9

Jack Kerouac, *On the Road*.

September 12 - 16

Diane DiPrima (Charters 360), Frank O'Hara (Charters 400).

September 19 - 23

Lawrence Ferlinghetti (Charters 246), Lew Welch (Charters 322), Bob Kaufman (Charters 328).

September 26 - 30

Gary Snyder, *No Nature* (Poems TBA).

October 3 - 5

Gary Snyder, *No Nature* and selected essays (from packet).

October 10

Mid-term examination.

***2. and truly my eyes were opened***

October 12 – 14

Bonnie Bremser, *For Love of Ray*.

October 17 - 21

Sylvia Plath, *The Bell Jar*.

October 24 - 28

bell hooks, *Bone Black*.

***3. and then the individual/ identity/ clearing***

October 31 – November 4

Charles Olson, *Projective Verse* and selected poems, Larry Eigner (from packet).

November 7 – November 11

Robert Creeley, Cid Corman (from packet).

November 14 – 18

Lorine Niedecker, Frank Samperi (from packet).

November 21 – 25

Thanksgiving Recess.

November 28 – December 2

Edmond Jabes, *The Book of Questions*, Rosmarie Waldrop, Susan Howe (from packet).

December 5 – 9

Denise Levertov, *Selected Poems*.