Fall 8-15-2003

ENG 3704-001: Contemporary American Literature

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Revolutions of the Word

**Our work** will be devoted to the revolutions which poets have brought to American culture over the past fifty years.

**Required Texts**
Allen and Butterick, *The Postmoderns*
Charters, *The Portable Beat Reader*
Ginsberg, *Collected Poems*
Kerouac, *On the Road*
Kingston, *The Woman Warrior*
Harper, *Vintage Book of African American Poetry*
Johnson/ O'Leary, *To Do As Adam Did*
Lorde, *Zami*
Snyder, *No Nature*
Walker, *The Color Purple*
Packet of photocopies

**Your obligations** include completing the assigned reading, attending class (3 absences will lower your grade by a letter), and participating in class discussion. I will occasionally give reading quizzes to check on your preparation, as well as brief written assignments. Three essays of 1,500 words on assigned topics are also required. There will be a final examination.

**Our agenda** will be roughly as follows:

**Week...**
1. The Set-up to *Howl.*
5. John Cage and *Fluxus,* Alan Kaprow, John Cassavetes (*Shadows*), Frank O'Hara on Jackson Pollock.
6. Olson, Creeley (in Allen and Butterick, also photocopies)
7. Levertov, Eigner, Scalapino (in Allen and Butterick, also photocopies)
8. The Black Arts Movement (in Harper)
11. Lorde, *Zami*
12 Walker, *The Color Purple*
13 Robert Hayden (in Harper, also photocopies)
14 Snyder, *No Nature*
15. Johnson, *To Do As Adam Did.*