ENG 3704-021: Revolutions of the word versus Conformism, Then and Now

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Revolutions of the Word

Versus

Conformism, Then and Now

English 3704-021
M-F 10:30-12:30

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

Our agenda will be roughly as follows. (I will provide weekly reading lists with specific assignments, and a WEB CT site should be up sometime during the first week.)

Week 1. The Set-up and Howl.

Week 2. Beat Culture and Existenz.
   Kerouac.
   Ginsberg.
   Burroughs.
   DiPrima.
   Baraka.
   Kaufman.

   John Cage and Fluxus.
   Olson's Projective Verse.
   Creeley.
   Rothenberg.
   Grenier.
   Howe.
   Scalapino.

   Snyder.
   Levertov.
   Rich.
   Lorde.

Your obligations include completing the assigned reading, attending class (3 absences will lower your grade by a letter, four or more will bring an F), and participating in class discussion. I will occasionally give reading quizzes to check on your preparation, as well as brief written assignments. Two essays of 1,000 words on assigned topics are also required, and they will be due on July 12 and 26. There will be a final examination.
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Week 1: The Set-Up and Howl.

- Monday-Wednesday.

Watch and Discuss: Invasion of the Body Snatchers, Rebel Without a Cause.
(I also recommend that you watch any of these on your own: Forbidden Planet, It Came From Mars, Glen and Glenda; East of Eden, On the Waterfront, The Wild One, The Hustler.)

THEN: Post-war and Cold War.
Civil Defense http://members.home.net/cdmuseum/ and The Day We Bombed Utah http://www.nuclearfiles.org/
Housing and Baby Booms http://tigger.uic.edu/~pbhales/levittown/
Man's Search for Meaning and Sartre http://hlopov.tripod.com/ versus...
The Organization Man http://www.english.upenn.edu/~afilreis/50s/whytemain.html

The Same ...
Pattern...
Matrix...
Order?

NOW: Post-Cold War. Cyberterror and Genetic Engineering.
Gated Communities.
Amadou Diallo
Buddha versus... The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People.

Task: Pick one film and one reading from the websites listed as THEN. Discuss the film in light of the reading. Your essay should run about 1,000 words. It is due at 10:30 A.M., Thursday, July 12.

- Thursday and Friday

Read and Discuss:
Allen Ginsberg, Howl, Footnote to Howl, A Supermarket in California, Sunflower Sutra, America.
(Charters, 62-77).
Herbert Huncke, Elsie John and Joey Martinez (Charters, 146-152).
Carl Solomon, excerpts from Mishaps, Perhaps (Charters, 167-170).