ENG 2003-001: Creative Writing

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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 to be animated and far-ranging.

Texts

Allen and Butterick, *The Postmoderns.*
Basho, *Back Roads to Far Towns.*
Johnson, *To Do As Adam Did.*
Levertov, *Selected Poems.*
Rothenberg and Joris: *Poems for the Millennium.*
Snyder, *No Nature.*

Requirements and Expectations

- **Weekly writing assignments derived from our readings.** (You will be expected to make 7 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.** I allow two absences and will lower your final grade by one letter for each class you miss thereafter.

- **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?
   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?
   
   Basho/Corman, Back Roads to Far Towns.
   Levertov, Selected Poems.
   Readings from Rothenberg and Joris:
   
   Reznikoff, 546-551.
   Ungaretti, 177.
   Williams, 529-533.
   Hughes, 651-655, and in Harper 143-152
   (Photocopies.)

3. How well do you sleep?
   
   Reading from Rothenberg and Joris.
   Jacob, 112-118.
   Apollinaire, 119-131.
   Reverdy, 180-184.
   Huidobro, 185-189
   Surrealism, 465-517.
   Bob Kaufman (Harper 166-174).

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.