Eastern Illinois University
The Keep

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ENG 2003-001

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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.*
Fowlie, Rimbaud: *Complete Works, Selected Letters.*
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 7 copies of your work for distribution to the class.)
  30% of grade.

- Midterm essay and portfolio.
  20% of grade.

- Handwritten journal of poems read.

- Book review.

- 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?
   Whitman, Song of Myself and other poems.
   Rimbaud. Illuminations and selected letters.

   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.
   Jacob, 112-118.
   Apollinaire, 119-131.
   Reverdy, 130-134.
   Huidobro, 185-189
   Surrealism, 465-517.
   Prologue to Negritude, 559-582
   Henri Michaux, 615-618

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.