Fall 8-15-2005

ENG 3704-001: Contemporary American Literature

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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.

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

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

December 5 – 9
Denise Levertov, *Selected Poems*. 