ENG 3704-002: Ends of the Road?

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Professor John Martone  
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English 3704-002  
MWF 1:00-1:50, CH3170  
Office hour: W 12:00-1:00

Ends of the Road?

Required Texts

Allen, *The Postmoderns*  
Corman *The Next One Thousand Years*  
Gaines, *A Lesson Before Dying*  
Kerouac *Road Novels*  
Levertov, *Selected Poems*  
McCarthy, *The Crossing*  
Niedecker *The Granite Pail*  
Plath, *The Bell Jar*

Packet of photocopies.

Themes, issues, questions

The cold war, paranoia and conformism. The corporate nation. Empire and consumption. Tradition and rituals of American counterculture. “American Adam”(s), and notions of creativity. Text and body. The poetics of de/struction, and “the sense of an ending.” Boundaries – geographic, political, social, cultural, linguistic, and physical.

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 5-page essays (specifcics TBA):
   September 19: Bop prosody  
   November 7: Close reading  
   December 7: Fruit of the forbidden tree

20% of grade: Fifties Film Festival and hourly mid-term examination.

20% of grade: Final examination.
1. the madman bum and angel

August 25-29
Introduction, Postwar America and the Beat Generation.
Allen Ginsberg, Howl, Sunflower Sutra, America (in Allen).

September 3, 5
Jack Kerouac, On the Road.

September 8-12
Kerouac, The Dharma Bums.

September 15-19
Diane DiPrima (in Allen and packet).

September 22-26
Fifties Film Festival

September 29 Hourly Exam

October 1, 3
Duberman, Black Mountain: Experiment in Community (on reserve)

October 6, 10
Charles Olson, Projective Verse and selected poems, Larry Eigner (from Allen).

2. and then the individual/ identity/ clearing

October 13-17
Robert Creeley, Frank Samperi (from packet) Cid Corman, The Next One Thousand Years

October 20-24

3. Dying is an art

October 27-31
Sylvia Plath, The Bell Jar.

November 3-7
Plath, Selected Poems (from packet)

November 10-14
Gaines, A Lesson Before Dying

November 17-21
Gaines, A Lesson Before Dying

November 24-28 Thanksgiving Recess

December 1-5
McCarthy, The Crossing

December 8-12
McCarthy, The Crossing

December 5 – 7
McCarthy, The Crossing