

ENGL 2716: American Poetry: 'After' Objectivism

Winter Quarter, 2012

CRN 4592

T & Th 10:00-11:50

SH 234

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SH 387-E

Notebook Prompts:

- Find a 'window' and write about it as a medium that provides both transparency and reflectivity.
- Listen to Williams reading his poetry @ PennSound, <http://writing.upenn.edu/pennsound/>
- Choose one of the historical artifacts / para-texts in *Paterson* and write about the relationship between that document / story and the poem.
- Invent your own artifact / para-text and place it somewhere in *Paterson*.
- Look for signs of spring (as you walk around DU or Denver) and also pay attention to the importance of weather (the seasons & etc.) in Niedecker's poems.
- Listen for the range of voices in Niedecker's writing. Choose one work to study closely.
- Write a letter to Lorine Niedecker and/or generate some automatic writing in the spirit of her "Canvass" series.
- Listen to George Oppen reading his poems. Pay attention to his tone and cadence.
- Focus on one or two of Oppen's metaphors. How do they do what they do?
- Notice Oppen's ways w/ allusion / appropriation / attribution. Compare those gestures w/ those of Niedecker and Williams. Similarities? Differences?
- Listen to William Bronk reading his poems. Notice his tone and cadence.
- Notice Bronk's variations on the sonnet form, especially in his collections, "My Father Photographed With Friends" and "To Praise the Music."
- Write a brief reply to your choice of three of the essays by Frost, Stein, Eliot, Spicer, and O'Hara. Pay close attention to the notions of poetics that are at stake and how they measure-up against Bronk's poetry.
- Consider this essay's argument about the sonnet: "'roses no such roses': Jen Bervin's *Nets* and the Sonnet Tradition from Shakespeare to the Postmoderns," *Double Room* 5 (2005): http://webdelsol.com/Double_Room/issue_five/Jen_Bervin.html.
- Within the latest gathering of essays (i.e. Frost, Stein, Eliot, Spicer, O'Hara) pay attention to the matter of personality. How and why do these essays argue either for or against a particular kind of personality in poetry? How would you compare those notions with Bronk's poems?
- Who was Orpheus? Do some quick research. Jack Spicer says that Orpheus "moved impossible audiences." What kinds of inspired singing do you hear in Susan Howe's work?