

**ENGL 3852 Topics in Poetics: 'After' Objectivism**

Spring Quarter, 2014

CRN 4486

T & Th 12:00 – 1:50

Margery Reed Hall 019

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SH 387-E

This course concerns the poetry of William Carlos Williams, Lorine Niedecker, George Oppen, William Bronk, and Susan Howe, which we will study within and against the Objectivist tradition. How and why have these poets engaged with and departed from such an artistic movement? What were they after, and (perhaps more importantly) what else has come & gone 'after' Objectivism? How and why does the Objectivist tradition continue to influence postmodern American poetry and poetics? We will celebrate the works of Williams, Niedecker, Oppen, Bronk, and Howe from *readerly* and *writerly* perspectives, following their paths into artistic, cultural, and philosophical / theoretical contexts.

**Required Books:**

William Bronk. *Life Supports: New and Collected Poems*. Jersey City: Talisman, 1997.

ISBN: 1-883689-59-7.

Dana Gioia, ed. *Twentieth-Century American Poetics*. Boston: McGraw Hill, 2004.

ISBN: 978-0-07-241472-1.

Susan Howe. *That This*. New York: New Directions, 2010.

ISBN: 978-0-8112-1918-1.

Susan Howe. *Souls of the Labadie Tract*. New York: New Directions, 2007.

ISBN: 978-0-8112-1718-7.

Lorine Niedecker. *Collected Works*. Ed. Jenny Penberthy. Berkeley: University of California, 2002.

ISBN: 978-0-520-22434-6.

George Oppen. *New Collected Poems*. Ed. Michael Davidson. New York: New Directions, 2008.

ISBN: 978-0-8112-1805-4.

William Carlos Williams. *Paterson*. Ed. Christopher MacGowan. New York: New Directions, 1992.

ISBN: 978-0-8112-1298-4.

**Optional Books:**

Edward Foster and Burt Kimmelman, eds. *William Bronk in the Twenty-First Century*. Greenfield, MA:

Talisman House, 2013. ISBN: 978-1-58498-099-5.

Will Montgomery. *The Poetry of Susan Howe: History, Theology, Authority*. New York: Palgrave

Macmillan, 2010. ISBN: 978-0-230-62197-8.

**Assignments:**

Five Écrits @ 50%

One Group Presentation @ 10%

One Research Project @ 40%

**Note on attendance:** For each unexcused absence, your grade in the course will be diminished by -0.5.

**Note on assignments:** Unless otherwise specified, all assignments are due at the beginning of class, as noted on the calendar, in hard copy form: typed, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, citations included (either Chicago or MLA format) and pages stapled. Works that do not conform to these guidelines will be considered late. Late submissions will receive a deduction of -0.5 per day.

**Note on plagiarism:** Students are expected to submit original work for all assignments. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic F in the course.

**Notes on grading:**

1. *The Check System.* I'll be grading your Écrits with a check system that will follow these guidelines. A check plus on all your Écrits will translate into a grade of 4.0 / A for that percentage of your overall grade in the course. Each check will reduce your grade for that component of your overall grade in the

course by -0.5. Each check minus, by -1.0; each missing *Écrit*, by -2.0. If you ever receive less than a check plus, you will have the option to revise and resubmit the *Écrit* for a higher grade. Those revisions (attached to the first draft) will be due by the beginning of the next class meeting.

2. *The Point & Letter System*. I'll be grading your presentation and research project with a point & letter system corresponding to this scale: A (4.0-3.9); A- (3.8-3.5); B+ (3.4-3.2); B (3.1-2.9); B- (2.8-2.5); C+ (2.4-2.2); C (2.1-1.9); C- (1.8-1.5); D+ (1.4-1.2); D (1.1-0.9); D- (0.8-0.5); F (0.4-0).

**Calendar (subject to changes):**

<b>Week One:</b>	<b>'After' Objectivism: Introduction</b>
T	3/25
Th	3/27
<b>Week Two:</b>	<b>Williams &amp; Howe</b>
T	4/1
Th	4/3
<b>Week Three:</b>	<b>Howe &amp; Williams</b>
T	4/8
Th	4/10
<b>Week Four:</b>	<b>Howe &amp; Niedecker &amp; Bronk</b>
T	4/15 <i>Écrit</i> #1 Due
Th	4/17
<b>Week Five:</b>	<b>Niedecker &amp; Williams</b>
T	4/22 <i>Écrit</i> #2 Due
Th	4/24
<b>Week Six:</b>	<b>Niedecker &amp; Oppen &amp; Bronk</b>
T	4/29 <i>Écrit</i> #3 Due
Th	5/1
<b>Week Seven:</b>	<b>Williams &amp; Howe &amp; Niedecker &amp; Oppen</b>
T	5/6 <i>Écrit</i> #4 Due
Th	5/8
<b>Week Eight:</b>	<b>Oppen &amp; Bronk</b>
T	5/13 <i>Écrit</i> #5 Due
Th	5/15 Presentations
<b>Week Nine:</b>	<b>Bronk &amp; Oppen</b>
T	5/20 Presentations
Th	5/22 Presentations
<b>Week Ten:</b>	<b>Williams &amp; Howe &amp; Niedecker &amp; Oppen &amp; Bronk</b>
T	5/27 Presentations
Th	5/29 Presentations
<b>Week Eleven</b>	<b>Final Examinations</b>
M	6/2
Th	6/5 Research Projects Due