

ENGL 3852 Topics in Poetics
'After' Objectivism
Spring Quarter, 2017

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Écrit #1: *After Images & Objects*

Works:

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

- Amy Lowell: "Preface to *Some Imagist Poets*"
- Gertrude Stein: "Composition as Explanation"
- W. C. Williams: "A New Measure" and "The Poem as a Field of Action"
- Ezra Pound: "A Retrospect" and "How to Read"
- Marianne Moore: "Idiosyncrasy and Technique"
- T.S. Eliot: "Reflections on *Vers Libre*" and "Tradition and the Individual Talent"
- Langston Hughes: "The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain"
- Louis Zukofsky: "An Objective"
- Charles Olson: "Projective Verse"
- Robert Hayden: "Introduction to *Kaleidoscope*"
- Muriel Rukeyser: "The Life of Poetry"
- Gwendolyn Brooks: "The New Black"
- Denise Levertov: "Some Notes on Organic Form"
- Lyn Hejinian: "The Rejection of Closure"
- Julia Alvarez: "So Much Depends"
- Alice Fulton: "Of Formal, Free, and Fractal Verse"

The New Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics: <http://libguides.du.edu/az.php>

The Oxford English Dictionary: <http://libguides.du.edu/az.php>

Susan Howe, *Spontaneous Particulars: The Telepathy of Archives*

Lorine Niedecker, *Collected Works*, pp. 1–121

William Carlos Williams, *Paterson*, books 1-3

Questions / Topics:

- Discuss the significance of interpersonal and/or intertextual relationships in *Spontaneous Particulars*, *Paterson* (Books 1-3), and Niedecker's *Collected Works*, pp. 1–121.
- How and why do archives play significant roles for Howe, Williams, and Niedecker? How and why do they cover and recover hidden information?
- Discuss the significance of sound forms (and silences) in *Spontaneous Particulars*, *Paterson* (Books 1-3), and Niedecker's *Collected Works*, pp. 1–121.
- Observe relationships between word and world, page and polis, etc.
- Invent your own question / topic.

Write your Écrit in reply to one of these prompts. Provide evidence (i.e. direct quotation) from: at least three of the above selections in *Twentieth-Century American Poetics*; at least two entries in *The Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics*; at least one definition from *The Oxford English Dictionary*; and, last but not least, *Spontaneous Particulars*, *Paterson*, and Niedecker's *Collected Works*, pp. 1–121. Your reading of these works from Howe, Williams, and Niedecker should receive primary emphasis in your Écrit. Include a Works Cited page (either Chicago or MLA format) for all sources.

Length: 5-7 pages.

Format: hard copy, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, pages stapled.

Due: Thursday, April 13