

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

Spring Quarter, 2017

T &amp; Th 10:00 – 11:50

SH 480

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**Description:**

This course concerns selected works by William Carlos Williams, Lorine Niedecker, George Oppen, William Bronk, Susan Howe, Rachel Blau DuPlessis, Fred Moten, and Lucy Ives, which we will study within and against the so-called Objectivist tradition, following their paths into artistic, cultural, and philosophical / theoretical / political contexts (c. 1931-present). Assignments will include a variety of individual and collaborative works blending creativity, research, and critique.

**Books:**

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

Rachel Blau DuPlessis. *Surge: Drafts 96-114*. Cromer, UK: Salt, 2013.

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

Susan Howe. *Spontaneous Particulars: The Telepathy of Archives*. New York: New Directions, 2014.

Lucy Ives. *Orange Roses*. Boise: Ahsahta Press, 2013.

Fred Moten. *The Little Edges*. Middleton: Wesleyan University Press, 2014.

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

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

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

**Invitations:**

Three Écrits @ 40% (5-7 pages each)

Two Assemblages @ 20% (2-3 pages each)

One Research Project\* @ 40% (10-12 pages or the equivalent, depending upon media)

\* One Project involving research. Open topic, media, form and style. The project should engage in some way with your selection of materials from our studies, and should also address contexts and works beyond that scope. Project proposals required.

**Notes on grading:**

1. *The Check System*. I'll be grading your Écrits and Assemblages with a check system that will follow these guidelines. A check plus on all of these will translate into a grade of 4.0 / A for those percentages of your overall grade in the course. Each check will reduce your grade for those components by -0.5. Each check minus, by -1.0; each missing Écrit or Assemblage, by -2.0. If you ever receive less than a check plus, you will have the option to revise and resubmit for a higher grade. Those revisions (attached to the first draft) will be due by the beginning of the next class.
2. *The Point & Letter System*. I'll be grading your 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).

**Note on attendance:** For each unexcused absence, your final grade 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.

**Calendar**  
**(subject to changes):**

- Week One: *'After' Objectivism: Poetry 37.5 (February, 1931)***  
3/28 Course Introduction / Assemblage dialogues  
3/30 Assemblage dialogues / Gioia: selections / Howe & Williams
- Week Two: **Williams & Howe****  
4/4 First assemblage / Williams & Howe / Gioia: selections  
4/6 Williams & Howe / Gioia: selections
- Week Three: **Williams & Howe & Niedecker****  
4/11 Williams & Howe & Niedecker / Gioia: selections  
4/13 Écrit #1 / Williams & Howe & Niedecker / Gioia: selections
- Week Four: **Niedecker & Oppen & DuPlessis****  
4/18 Niedecker & Oppen & DuPlessis / Gioia: selections  
4/20 Niedecker & Oppen & DuPlessis / Gioia: selections
- Week Five: **Oppen & DuPlessis & Bronk****  
4/25 Oppen & DuPlessis & Bronk / Gioia: selections  
4/27 Écrit #2 / Oppen & DuPlessis & Bronk / Gioia: selections
- Week Six: **Bronk & Oppen & Moten & Ives****  
5/2 Bronk & Oppen & Moten & Ives / Gioia: selections  
5/4 Research Project Proposals / Bronk & Oppen & Moten & Ives / Gioia: selections
- Week Seven: **Moten & Ives & Howe & DuPlessis****  
5/9 Moten & Ives & Williams & DuPlessis / Gioia: selections  
5/11 Moten & Ives & Williams & DuPlessis / Gioia: selections
- Week Eight: **Ives & Moten & Bronk & Niedecker & Williams****  
5/16 Ives & Moten & Bronk & Niedecker & Williams / Gioia: selections  
5/18 Écrit #3 / Ives & Moten & Bronk & Niedecker & Williams / Gioia: selections
- Week Nine: **Objectivist Poetics and Praxis****  
5/23 Assemblage dialogues / Gioia: selections  
5/25 Assemblage dialogues / Gioia: selections
- Week Ten: *'After' Objectivism***  
5/30 Second Assemblage  
6/1 Last day of classes  
6/5-6/8 Spring Quarter final exams