

ENGL 3852 Topics in Poetics: *after Objectivism*

Spring Quarter, 2015

CRN 3244

T & Th 10:00 – 11:50

KRH 409

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SH 387-E

Course Description:

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 these poets and others 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.

Joseph Donahue. *Red Flash on a Black Field*. New York: Black Square Editions, 2015.

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.

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.

Assignments:

Five Écrits @ 50%

One 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):**Week One: After Objectivism: Introduction / Williams & Howe**

T 3/24

Th 3/26

Week Two: Howe & Williams

T 3/31

Th 4/2

Week Three: Williams & Niedecker

T 4/7

Écrit #1 Due

Th 4/9

Week Four: Niedecker & Oppen

T 4/14

Th 4/16

Week Five: Oppen & Bronk

T 4/21

Écrit #2 Due

Th 4/23

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Week Six: Bronk & Howe & DuPlessis

T 4/28

Th 4/30

Week Seven: DuPlessis & Oppen & Niedecker

T 5/5

Écrit #3 Due

Th 5/7

Week Eight: Donahue & Ives

T 5/12

Th 5/14

Week Nine: Niedecker & Oppen & DuPlessis & Ives

T 5/19

Écrit #4 Due / Tom Parson, Letterpress Depot: <http://www.letterpressdepot.com/#about>
AAC 340 / 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Th 5/21

Week Ten: Williams & Bronk & Howe & Donahue

T 5/26

Th 5/28

Écrit #5 Due

Week Eleven: Final Examinations

M 6/2

Th 6/4

Research Projects Due