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ENLT 522.01: Inventions of Extravagance - Romanticism, the Avantgarde, Modernism

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Inventions of Extravagance: Romanticism, the Avantgarde, Modernism

English 522.01
Fall 2000
Thursday 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.
LA 233

Robert Baker
Office Hours: R 5:00 - 6:30
and by appointment (LA 219)
Phone: 243-6973 / 721-8343

Course Description:

The purpose of this course is threefold: to walk through a brief introductory study of some major romantic poetries of the nineteenth century; to walk through an introductory study of some major modernist and avantgardist poetries; and to attempt to elucidate some of the important ways in which modernist and avantgardist poetries evade and recast extravagant bearings and ample predicaments that they "inherit" from earlier romantic poetries.

We will concentrate on English and North American poets, though we will occasionally turn our attention to French poets as well.

Required Texts:

Robert Browning, *My Last Duchess and Other Poems* (Dover edition)
Alfred, Lord Tennyson, *Selected Poems* (Dover edition)
Charles Baudelaire, *The Painter of Modern Life and Other Essays* (this may not be available)
Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass: The First (1855) Edition*
Arthur Rimbaud, *Illuminations and A Season in Hell*
André Breton, *Manifestoes of Surrealism*
Wallace Stevens, *The Palm at the End of the Mind*
H.D., *Trilogy*
T.S. Eliot, *The Waste Land and Other Poems*
Marianne Moore, *The Complete Poems*
William Carlos Williams, *Imaginations*
Gertrude Stein, *Tender Buttons*
George Oppen, *Collected Poems*
Christopher Butler, *Early Modernism*
Course Packet on reserve in English Office and at Mansfield Library (including both poems and essays)

Course Requirements:

- Regular attendance
- Careful reading of all the assigned texts
- One or two short papers
- Final paper (about 20 pages)

MAP OF COURSE (cp = course packet)**I. Romantic Horizons and Predicaments**

R SEPT 7 Introduction

R SEPT 14 Major Romantic Orientations: Prophetic Currents, Meditative Currents

Poems (handouts):

Blake, *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*

Shelley, "Ode to the West Wind"

Coleridge, "Frost at Midnight"

Wordsworth, "Tintern Abbey" and "Intimations of Immortality"

Keats, "Ode to Psyche," "Ode to a Nightingale," "To Autumn"

Browning, "Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came" (in MLDOP)

Baudelaire, "The Voyage"

Stevens, "Prologues to What is Possible" (in PEM)

Crane, "The Broken Tower"

Essays:

H. Bloom, "The Internalization of Quest Romance" (cp 2)

N. Frye, "The Drunken Boat: The Revolutionary Element in Romanticism" (cp 2)

M.H. Abrams, "English Romanticism: The Spirit of the Age" (cp 2)

II. Romantic and Post-Romantic Predicaments and Transformations

R SEPT 21 Mask-Makers and Dandies

Poems:

Tennyson, "Tithonus," "Ulysses"

Browning, "My Last Duchess," "Fra Lippo Lippi," "The Bishop Orders His Tomb at Saint Praxed's Church," "An Epistle . . . of Karshish," "Andrea del Sarto," "Caliban upon Setebos"

Essays:

Baudelaire, "The Painter of Modern Life" (cp 3 if the book is out of print)

R. Langbaum, "The Dramatic Monologue: Sympathy versus Judgment" (cp 3)

R SEPT 28 The Opening of the Field and the Rise of Insurgent Rhythms

Poems:

Whitman, the "Preface" and "Song of Myself" section of the first (1855) edition of *Leaves of Grass*

Whitman, "Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking," "As I Ebb'd with the Ocean of Life" (cp 4)

Essays:

S.T. Coleridge, "On Poesy or Art" (cp 4)

S. Mallarmé, "Crise de vers" (cp 4)

D. Wesling, "The Crisis of Versification, 1855-1910" (cp 4)

R OCT 5 The Othered Subject and the Prose Poem

Poems:

Rimbaud, *Illuminations* and *A Season in Hell*

Essay:

A. Cook, "Point, Closure, Amplitude, and the Conditions of Utterance" (cp 5)

III. Modernist Predicaments and Transformations

R OCT 12 French Avantgarde Poetries

Poems (all in cp 6):

Apollinaire, "Zone," "Monday in Christine Street," "The Little Car"
 Cendrars, "The Prose of the Trans-Siberian and of Little Jeanne of France"
 Éluard, "Confections"
 Breton, "Mille et mille fois," "Tournesol," "Facteur Cheval," "Vigilance"

Manifesto:

Breton, *Manifesto of Surrealism*

Essay:

C. Butler, *Early Modernism*, chapters 1-4

R OCT 19 North American Modernist Poetries

Poems:

Stevens, "The Man Whose Pharynx Was Bad," "The Snow Man," "Tea at the Palaz of Hoon,"
 "The Idea of Order at Key West," "Notes Toward a Supreme Fiction,"
 "The Owl in the Sarcophagus"

Essays:

Stevens, "The Noble Rider and the Sound of Words" (cp 7)

R OCT 26 North American Modernist Poetries

Poems:

Stevens, "The Auroras of Autumn," "An Ordinary Evening in New Haven,"
 "A Discovery of Thought," "The Course of a Particular,"
 "Final Soliloquy of the Interior Paramour," "The Plain Sense of Things,"
 "The River of Rivers in Connecticut," "The Palm at the End of the Mind"

R NOV 2 North American Modernist Poetries

Poems:

H.D., *Trilogy*
 Pound, the first four *Cantos* (cp 9)

Essay:

A. Huyssen, "Mass Culture as Woman: Modernism's Other" (cp 9)

R NOV 9 North American Modernist Poetries

Poems:

Eliot, "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock," "Gerontion," *The Waste Land*, "The Hollow Men"

Essay:

C. Christ, "Dramatic Monologue, Mask, and Persona" (cp 10)

R NOV 16 North American Modernist Poetries

Poems:

Eliot, *The Waste Land*, "The Hollow Men," "The Journey of the Magi," "Marina"

Essays:

Eliot, "Tradition and the Individual Talent," "*Ulysses*, Order, and Myth" (cp 11)

R NOV 23 THANKSGIVING: NO CLASS

R NOV 30 North American Modernist Poetries

Poems:

Moore, *The Complete Poems*

Williams, *Spring and All* and other poems (handouts)

Essays:

C. Altieri, "Self-Subsuming Artifacts: The Logic of Constructivist Abstraction" (cp 13)

H. Kenner, "Something to Say" (cp 13)

R DEC 7 North American Modernist Poetries

Poems:

Stein, *Tender Buttons*

Williams, *Kora in Hell*

Essays:

M.. Berman, "Introduction" to *All That Is Solid Melts Into Air* (cp 14)

P. Anderson, "Modernity and Revolution" (cp 14)

R DEC 14 North American Modernist Poetries

Poems:

Oppen, *Collected Poems*

Interview:

"George Oppen: Interview with L.S. Dembo" (cp 15)

Essay:

R. Blau DuPlessis, "Objectivist Poetics and Political Vision: A Study of Oppen and Pound" (cp 15)