Fall 9-1-2001

ENCR 511.01: Graduate Poetry Workshop

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It is part of the function of poetry to serve as a test of truth. It is possible to say anything in abstract prose, but a great many things one believes or would like to believe or thinks he believes will not substantiate themselves in the concrete materials of the poem.

Oppen, “The Mind’s Own Place”

The bones of the artist-prince may be inside
or far away on even drier soil.
But roughly but adequately it can shelter
what is within...

Bishop, “The Monument”

REQUIRED TEXTS
Elizabeth Bishop: The Complete Poems 1927-1979
George Oppen: Collected Poems
Xeroxes

This is an advanced workshop devoted to critical analysis and revision of poems. We will discuss student work in light of central problems in poetics, with particular emphasis on the relationship between syntax and voice.

OFFICE HOURS
Friday 12-3 pm and by appointment
joklink@qwest.net
phone x2333 or 542-1825

PROCEDURES
BRING to class each week at least one poem (typed, with your name at the top).
Sometimes there will be instructions for the poem; sometimes not.
You can always hand in more poems than are assigned.

FISH out of the shelf each week the xeroxed worksheet of poems.
(It will usually be available by late Friday afternoon.)

READ through all the poems on the worksheet and prepare the ones marked X.
READ and prepare any other assignments.
BE, in class, present.

September 6  Introductions
September 13  Workshop
September 20  Workshop
September 27  Workshop
October 4    No class (reschedule)
October 11  Workshop
October 18  Workshop
October 25  Workshop
November 1  Workshop
November 8  Workshop
November 15 Workshop
November 22 No class (Thanksgiving)
November 29 Workshop
December 6  Workshop; portfolios due

December 7th-
December 15th  Conferences

December 13th  Last class: Reading

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Not the symbol but the scene this pavement leads
To roadsides--the finite

Losing its purposes
Is estranged

All this is reportage.

If having come so far we shall have
Song

Let it be small enough.    Oppen, "Route"