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"

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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.

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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"