
SYLLABUS

This course looks at selected interdisciplinary developments in the American context from the turn of the 19th century to the present. Texts will range from short literary works, primarily poetry, (modernism, the “language poets”) to examples of music (jazz, experimental classical music), contemporary art, and film; and will be discussed both in historical contexts and in the context of developments in literary theory

TEXTS: —Poetry and prose selections from various writers, e.g. Eliot, Pound, Stein, H.D., Stevens, Cummings, Hughes; Duchamp, Cage, Borges; the Language Poets.

—Additional material will include films, online videos and clips, as well as short articles discussing related concepts in the critical tradition (Peirce, Searle, Saussure, Barthes, Derrida), and excerpts from such works as Jacques Attali, *Noise*; Douglas Kahn, *Noise Water Meat*; Martin Jay, *Downcast Eyes*; James Elkins, *The Domain of Images*; Johanna Drucker, *The Visible Word*; and Jerome McGann, *Black Riders*.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. **Reading Assignments:** Readings will generally be assigned one week before they are to be discussed in class. Students are expected to have read the assigned material before class, and to bring it with them to class for discussion. It is expected that all reading will be done with the aid of a dictionary, and that students will ask for help if they have difficulty in understanding the material.
 2. **Exams:** The mid-term and final exams will cover all assigned readings and all material covered in class. They may include identifications, short answers, multiple choice, definitions, and essays.
 3. **Attendance and Punctuality:** Attendance of all classes is required; three hours will be excused. All students are expected to attend on time, and not to disturb the class once it has started; the use of mobile phones and other electronic devices is not permitted.
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<u>GRADING:</u>	Mid-Term Exam:	45%
	Final Exam:	45%
	Attendance/Participation:	10%
