

4332: Modern and Contemporary Poetry
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This is a fast-paced survey course that covers British, Irish and American poetry from the latter part of the nineteenth-century to the present day. We shall ask what the difference is between Modern, Post-Modern and Contemporary verse? We will look at how poets themselves define their work, especially the way in which poets distinguish themselves from the poetics of previous generations through the founding of movements and the creation of manifestos. Are poetic manifestos liberating or limiting? We will start with a consideration of immediately pre-modernist and Modernist verse and the Imagist movement (in particular the pronouncements of Ezra Pound) and the doctrine of impersonality espoused by T. S. Eliot. We will then consider the manner in which post-modern poets on both sides of the Atlantic sought to “Make it New” in the shadow of Modernism. This will include readings of the Black Mountain poets; a consideration of “The Movement” in the United Kingdom; and a discussion of the works of various “Beat” and “Confessional” poets. We will then turn to more recent developments, such as the L=A=N=G=U=A=G=E poetry movement, Neoformalism, postcolonial poetry and the poetry of the AIDS epidemic.