

Sally Connolly

English 4332: Modern and Contemporary Poetry:

What is the difference between Modern, Post-Modern and Contemporary verse? We will survey American, British and Irish verse from the Modern period to the present day. 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 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, and postcolonial poetry.