Università del Piemonte Orientale

L-LIN/11 - LETTERATURA NORDAMERICANA II ANNO

Mapping the Beat Generation in Italy

Monday 16:30-18:30 (Laboratorio Informatico 3, Complesso San Giuseppe)
Wednesday 16:30-18:30 (Aula B4, Ex Ospedaletto)

Maria Cristina Iuli Office: 4.1, Palazzo Tartara Office hours: Tuesdays 1:30pm-2:30pm Email: cristina.iuli@uniupo.it	Stefano Morello Office: 4.1, Palazzo Tartara Office hours: By appointment Email: stefano.morello@uniupo.it

This course looks at the Beat Generation as a post-war countercultural and transnational literary movement. We will investigate the literary, artistic, and cultural production of several US authors (including but not limited to Kenneth Rexroth, Allen Ginsberg, Norman Mailer, Gregory Corso, Diane Di Prima, Charles Olson, Amiri Baraka, Bob Kaufman, Anne Waldman, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Philip Lamantia, Jack Kerouac, Gary Snyder, and Michael McClure) through a comparative lens and reflect on their politics. We will be especially concerned with the influence of Italian culture—both in Italy and its diasporic manifestation in the United States—in the mythology the literary movement created for itself. As we alternate the use of literary theory and digital tools to produce a critical interpretation of the authors' poetics, literary tropes, and

narratives we will also engage with and reflect critically on the role of technology in the production and circulation of knowledge.

This course integrates literary theory, cultural studies, archival research, and digital humanities foundational training training.

Objectives.

1. The class fosters students' inquiry-driven and experiential learning in the humanities.
2. Students will read primary and secondary texts about a number of countercultural authors associated with the Beat Generation; they will also read about the post-war era in the United States from historical and literary sources.
3. Students will learn the fundamental terms of literary analysis, recognize and express critical judgments on narrative genres and on the formal and ideological characteristics of the texts under examination.
4. Students will learn to conduct research both in brick and mortar archives and in digital archives.
5. Students will familiarize with the field of Digital Humanities and with several computational techniques aimed at conducting humanistic and literary research.
6. The assignments are designed to provide students with a methodology to perform critical analysis and problem-solving.

Required readings are available on [DIR](#).

✔ It is the student's responsibility to access DIR daily as well as to check your institutional email, as these will be essential tools for communication in our class.
✔ Recommended reference texts:
  - *Ann Charters, ed. The Portable Beat Reader, Penguin Classics (2003)*
  - *David Sterritt, The Beats: A Very Short Introduction, Oxford, Oxford UP, 2013*
  - *Allen Ginsberg, The Best Minds of My Generation: A Literary History of the Beats, Grove Press, 2018*

Note: We will read and, occasionally, view sensitive material. If you object to or are uncomfortable with depictions of sex, drugs, violence, profanities, and so on, you should drop the course. Your continued enrollment in this section indicates your comfort with and responsibility for reading and viewing these texts.

Requirements and evaluation.

Participation 15%
Assignment #1 5%
Assignment #2 10%
Assignment #3 15%
Assignment #4 15%
Assignment #5 10%

Assignment #6 15%
Assignment #7 15%

Disability policy

In compliance with UniUPO's policy and equal access laws, appropriate accommodations are administered by the DSA. Students who register with DSA and are entitled to specific accommodations, must request a letter from them to present to the Professor that states what their accommodations are.

COURSE CALENDAR

Date	Topic	Reading Assignment	Task Due
26/09	Introduction		
05/10	"All Poets Welcome"	Allen Ginsberg's Definition of the Beat Generation (from *The Best Minds of My Generation: A Literary History of the Beats*, Allen Ginsberg, Bill Morgan, ed.) Allen Ginsberg, "Howl" and "America"; William Burroughs, selections from *Nova Express*; Diane Di Prima, selected poems from *Revolutionary Letters*; Lawrence Ferlinghetti selected poems from *A Coney Island of the Mind.* Chapter 1 from Daniel Kane, *All Poets Welcome: The Lower East Side Poetry Scene in the 1960s*. Berkeley, California: University of California Press, 2003.	
10/10	Introduction to Digital Humanities	Julie Thompson Klein, "The Boundary Work of Making in Digital Humanities" in *Making Things and Drawing Boundaries, Experiments in the Digital Humanities,* Jentery Sayers, ed. University of Minnesota Press, 2018. Matthew Kirschenbaum, "What Is Digital Humanities and What's It Doing in English Departments?"; Kathleen Fitzpatrick, "The Humanities, Done Digitally"; Lisa Spiro, "'This Is Why We Fight': Defining the Values of the Digital Humanities" [All three essays published in Matthew K. Gold, ed,	Assignment #1 due

		Debates in the Digital Humanities. University of Minnesota Press, 2012.]	
12/10	The Beats in/and Italy	Alessandro Clericuzio, "La poesia Beat in Italia: uno studio translocal" in *Annali di Ca' Foscari*, Vol. 52 – Settembre 2018 *Fernanda Pivano: A Farewell to Beat* (Documentary by Luca Facchini) Maria Anita Stefanelli, "CHILDREN OF ANARCHY: Shoulder to Shoulder with the Italian Beats" in *The Routledge Handbook of International Beat Literature*, A. Robert Lee, ed., Routledge, 2018. Diane di Prima, *Revolutionary Letters* Greogry Corso, *Gasoline*	
17/10	Introduction to Research/Archival Research for Literary Studies	Trevor Owens, "What Do You Mean by Archive? Genres of Usage for Digital Preservers," The Signal: Digital Preservation (February 27, 2014) David Kazanjian, "Scenes of Speculation" in *Social Text*: 77–84. GC Library Guide University of Iowa Libraries: DIY History	Select authors/topics for final project
19/10	Field trip to Fernanda Pivano's archive in Milan	Jack Kerouac, *On the Road* (Part 1 and 2)	Assignment #2 due
24/10	On the Road	Jack Kerouac, *On the Road* (Part 3, 4, and 5)	
26/10	Literary Mapping	Franco Moretti, *Graphs, Maps, Trees* (New York: Verso Books, 2005), 35-64.	

		"Introduction" (1-22) and "Mapping Fiction: The Theories, Tools and Potentials of Literary Cartography" (88-101) in David Cooper, Christopher Donaldson and Patricia Murrieta-Flores, eds. *Literary Mapping in the Digital Age*. Routledge, 2016. Digital mapping projects assigned.	
02/11	Text Analysis and Text Mining	Chapter 1 and 2 from Geoffrey Rockwell and Stefan Sinclair, *Hermeneutica, Computer-Assisted Interpretation in the Humanities*, MIT Press, 2016. Amanda Gailey. "Some Big Problems with Big Data." *American Periodicals: A Journal of History & Criticism* 26, no. 1 (2016): 22-24.	
07/11	Group Project		
15/11	**No CLASS:** Class is suspended until December 12.		Assignment #3 due Sign up for a 15-minute remote conferencing session (11/18-20) to discuss your submission
30/11	**No CLASS**		Assignment #4 due
12/12	Digital Mapping and Storytelling		
14/12	Group Project		Assignment #5 (in class)
19/12	Group Project		
9/01	Presentations		Assignment #6
11/01	Presentations		