

Fall 2013
Department of English
Course and Section No: ENGL 5609F
Course Title: American Bohemians
Location: DT 1816
Time: Thursdays
11:25am- 2:25pm
Instructor: Rob Holton
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Course Description

. . . the whole indefinite, disintegrated mass, thrown hither and thither, which the French call *la bohème*. Karl Marx -- *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte* (1852)

"It is queer," Anne continued, "but, do you know, I cannot find any interesting people outside of Bohemia."

"Or any interesting ideas," said Helen; "but that's the same thing."

"Or any good coffee," added Howard, lifting his cup.

Margaret Sherwood -- *A Puritan Bohemia* (1896)

The course will begin with a consideration of the idea of bohemia as it emerged in Paris in the 1800s following the turbulence of the Revolution and the Napoleonic wars. By mid-century, Parisian bohemia was famous as a haven both for artists and for eccentrics, a space where creativity was prized and transgression was permitted and even celebrated. The concept was widely exported and soon America had a burgeoning bohemian culture as well. The analysis of early bohemia provided by Walter Benjamin, Pierre Bourdieu, Jerrold Seigel and others will frame our approach to American bohemians and bohemian subcultures including the Greenwich Village group that formed around the turn of the 20th century, the Beat Generation and the hippies. Issues to be considered along the way include bohemia as a response to capitalism and to bourgeois conventions, gender relations in bohemia, the overlap between bohemians and the lumpenproletariat, bohemians and political commitment, bohemia and . . .

Required Texts

Texts are available at Octopus Books (Bank & Third), or online, on reserve or in the department.

<i>On the Road</i>	Jack Kerouac	<i>Portable Beat Reader</i>	Ed. Ann Charters
<i>Junky</i>	William Burroughs	<i>Tropic of Cancer</i>	Henry Miller

Evaluation

Seminar Presentation	40%	Participation	10%
Research Paper	50%		

- The essay topics should be cleared with me well before submission.
- If an assignment is lost, misplaced, or not received, you are responsible for having a backup copy that can be submitted immediately upon request.



From Myrtle Reed's "The Dweller in Bohemia" (1912)

Plagiarism

The University Senate defines plagiarism as "*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own.*" This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

Please see the statement on Academic Integrity in the Undergraduate Calendar. You are responsible for understanding what plagiarism is. If you are in any doubt, consult me.

Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by TBA for the Fall term and TBA for the Winter term.

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation>.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1.

Michel Foucault – “Of Other Spaces”

<http://foucault.info/documents/heterotopia/foucault.heterotopia.en.html>

Week 2.

Walter Benjamin – *Selected Writings* Vol. 4 “The Paris in the Second Empire in Baudelaire”

Part 1: The Boheme -- Reserve

Jerrold Seigel – Bohemian Paris 3-30 -- Reserve

Pierre Bourdieu – *The Rules of Art* 47 – 81 -- Reserve

Henri Murger - *Bohemians of the Latin Quarter* <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/18445>

Preface

1. How the Bohemian Club Was Formed

6. Mademoiselle Musette

11. A Café in Bohemia

22. Epilogue to the Loves of Rodolphe and Mademoiselle Mimi

23. Youth Is Fleeting

Week 3.

The Vault at Pfaff's (<http://digital.lib.lehigh.edu/pfaffs/>)

Harper's – "What Is a Bohemian?" (1859) WebCT

E.C. Stedman – "Bohemia: A Pilgrimage" (1860) WebCT

James B. McCabe – "Bleecker Street" *Light and Shadows of New York Life* (1872) WebCT

John Boyle O'Reilly – "In Bohemia" (1886) WebCT

H.C. Bunner – "The Bowery and Bohemia" *Jersey Street and Jersey Lane* (1896)

Week 4.

Henry Harland – "The Bohemian Girl" in *Grey Roses* (1895) WebCT

Emilie Ruck de Schell – "Is Feminine Bohemianism a Failure?" (1896) Reserve

Myrtle Reed – "The Dweller in Bohemia" (1912) WebCT

Anna Alice Chapin – *Greenwich Village* (1917) WebCT

Willa Cather – "Coming, Aphrodite" (1920) WebCT

Week 5.

Reds

Floyd Dell – *Love in Greenwich Village* (1926)

http://www.bohemianlit.com/full_text/dell/contents.htm

Proem: The Rise of Greenwich Village

2. The Kitten and the Masterpiece

5. Hallelujah I'm a Bum

Epilogue: The Fall of Greenwich Village

Edna St. Vincent Millay – Poems WebCT

Selections from *Echoes of Revolt: the Masses, 1911-1917*. Edited by William L. O'Neill. reserve

Selections from *Art for the Masses: A Radical Magazine and Its Graphics, 1911-1917* / Rebecca Zurier (reserve)

Recommended – not required:

Joseph Freeman – "The Happy Island" in *An American Testament* (1938) 228-255 (reserve)

Margaret Sanger – *Woman and the New Race* (1920) 1-29

<http://www.archive.org/details/cu31924011259227>

Randolph Bourne – "Old Tyrannies" "War and the Intellectuals" *Untimely Papers* 11-46

http://openlibrary.org/works/OL56846W/Untimely_papers

Emma Goldman – *Anarchism and Other Essays* (1910) 173-245

http://openlibrary.org/books/OL6527268M/Anarchism_and_other_essays

Week 6.

Henry Miller – *Tropic of Cancer*

Week 7.

Jack Kerouac - *On the Road*

Week 8.

Allen Ginsberg - "Howl" (*TPBR*)

“Supermarket in California”

“Sunflower Sutra”

Lawrence Ferlinghetti – “Junkman’s Obligatto” (online)

Week 9.

Lew Welch – “Chicago Poem” (TPBR)

Gregory Corso – “Marriage” (TPBR)

John Wieners – “A Poem for Teaheads” (TPBR); “A Poem for Cocksuckers” (online); “A Poem for Trapped Things” (online); “Cocaine” (online); “The Acts of Youth” (online)

Early Bob Dylan

Week 10.

William Burroughs -- *Junkie*

-- “Disposition” (TPBR)

Week 11.

Diane Di Prima – from *Memoirs of a Beatnik, Selected Poems, Recollections of My Life as a Woman*. (reserve)

Selections from TPBR – Carolyn Cassady, Hettie Jones

Joyce Johnson - *Minor Characters* (reserve)

Week 12.

Bohemian Pastoralism - Gary Snyder – Poems and *Earth House Hold* (TPBR and reserve)

- Allen Ginsberg – “Ecologue” (reserve)

- Bob Dylan – Nashville Skyline, New Morning

Bohemia

Where shall I go to find real, true Bohemia?
Seek it not here, 'mid the glitter of gold;
Wealth does not grow on the shores of Bohemia;
Fame only lingers its realms to unfold.

Who shall I find in the shades of Bohemia?
Beings untined by society's stern laws;
Mortals whose aim is unfettered, pure nature,
Heedless alike of earth's blame or applause.

What shall I see in the land of Bohemia?
Noble souls striving for freedom of thought;
Wonderful units, with brains ever active.
Brimful of hope, yet with cares ever fraught.

Who are the natures who haunt true Bohemia?
Those whose high souls from society rebel;
Those whom the earth-hovering, narrow, vain natures
Cannot control, yet they cannot dispel.

Basy Bohemia; dear, free Bohemia,
Oft, ere I knew the dear charm of thy name,
I felt despondent, careworn, and heart-sore;
Now I have found thee, I echo thy fame.

Who shall be saved from this same wild Bohemia?
Christ, the immaculate, chose his few friends
From the mixed sphere 'twixt the saint and the
outcast;
Who dares revile when the Blessed One descends ?

Give me on earth my dear friends from Bohemia,
Women and men not angelic, but true;
Give me in heaven my tried friends in Bohemia,
My earth-born life I shall then never rue.

Isabella T. Aitkin
Bohemia and Other Poems 1891