

The Beat Generation: Writers and Poets

This seminar will examine the origins and legacy of the poets and writers of the Beat Generation.

Participants can research the primary influences that contributed to the Beat writers and poets including but not confined to John Milton, and the romantics including William Blake, John Keats and Percy Bysshe Shelley, and of course Walt Whitman. Others include Charles Baudelaire, Emily Dickinson, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Herman Melville, Edgar Allan Poe, Arthur Rimbaud and Henry David Thoreau. Also, William Carlos Williams, Ezra Pound, e. e. Cummings, Wallace Stevens and Dylan Thomas.

Participants primary focus will be to select a Beat writer and/or poet and offer a half hour to forty-five minute presentation on the life, work and legacy of the individual. Part of that time will be devoted to reading selections of the individual's work by both presenter and members of the seminar.

There is some debate regarding who is a "Beat" writer and/or poet but participants can choose from among the following:

Allen Ginsberg, Gary Snyder, Kenneth Rexroth, Gregory Corso, Jack Kerouac, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, William S. Burroughs, Michael McClure, Diane di Prima, Amira Baraka, Herbert Huncke, Neal Cassidy, Bob Kaufman, Peter Orlovsky et al.

While the seminar will have a particular schedule I seek to have participants be in as much control of their presentation as is possible and consistent with the goal of the seminar. There are other poets/writers to consider and participants should feel free to suggest their different choice to me.

Once the class list is finalized I will send out a schedule as well as a sign up sheet for all participants.

Look forward to "seeing" you on zoom.