

THE BEAT GENERATION

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Required Texts

Jack Kerouac, *On the Road*

Allen Ginsberg, *Howl and Other Poems*

Tim T. Hernandez, *Mañana Means Heaven*

Course Reader

Anne Charters, ed., *The Portable Beat Reader* (OPTIONAL)

Week 1. Introduction

Week 2. Defining the Beat Generation

Holmes, "This is the Beat Generation"

Kerouac, "Origins of the Beat Generation"

Williams, "Structures of Feeling"

Wilson, excerpt from *The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit*

Week 3. Contexts: Hipsters and White Negroes

Broyard, "A Portrait of the Hipster"

Mailer, "The White Negro"

Whaley, *Blows Like a Horn*, pp. 27-46

Week 4. Spontaneous Bop Prosody: The Beats and Jazz

Kerouac, "San Francisco Scene":

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sgRCak7Nkvo&feature=kp>

Kerouac, "Essentials of Spontaneous Prose," "Belief and Technique for Modern Prose"

Watch: *Pull My Daisy*: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I_5KXUAos3g (you don't have to watch the entire film)

Listen: "Ko-Ko," "Embraceable You," "Now's the Time"

DeVeaux and Giddins, *Jazz*, pp. 279-87 (OPTIONAL: pp. 288-94)

Week 5. *On the Road*, I

Jack Kerouac, *On the Road*

Watch: *Kerouac, King of the Beats*

Week 6. *On the Road*, II

Kerouac, *On the Road*, cont.

Week 7. “The Mexican Girl”

Tim Hernandez, *Mañana Means Heaven*

Week 8. *Mañana Means Heaven*, cont.

Week 9. “Howl” and Other Poems I

Williams, preface to *Howl and Other Poems*

Ginsberg, “Howl” (all parts + footnote)

Raskin, *American Scream*, pp. 1-24

Listen: Ginsberg, “Howl,” Reed College, 1956

Week 10. “Howl” and Other Poems II

Ginsberg, “America,” “Sunflower Sutra,” “A Supermarket in California,” “Love Poem on Theme by Whitman”

Ginsberg, “Poetry, Violence, and the Trembling Lambs”

Week 11. Burroughs

Burroughs, from *Naked Lunch*, etc.

Week 12. “Beatniks” in the Media

Podhoretz, “The Know-Nothing Bohemians”

O’Neil, “The Only Rebellion Around”

Life, “Squaresville, USA vs. Beatville” (OLAT)

Time Magazine, “Fried Shoes,” “The Disorganization Man”

Brown, from *Beat Beat Beat* (OLAT)

Week 13. Women’s Voices

Anne Waldman, foreword to *Women of the Beat Generation*

Brenda Knight, “Sisters, Saints and Sibyls,” introduction to *Women of the Beat Generation*

Johnson, from *Minor Characters*

Joane Kyger, “Poison Oak for Allen”

Skir, “Elise Cohen: A Brief Memoir of the Fifties”

DiPrima, “Rant”

Picture: Beatnik Beauties, *LA Times*, 1959 (OLAT)

Week 14. The Beats at the Movies

Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman, dirs., *Howl* (2010)

Whalen, *Blows Like A Horn*, pp. 9-28