Comparative Literature 24: Bob Dylan and the Poets

NB: This is a one-credit seminar offered for Freshmen. Students were asked to bring their listening and reading skills, to make a brief presentation and to write a brief paper at the end of term.

UC BERKELEY, Fall 2023
Timothy Hampton
Professor of Comparative Literature

Syllabus


I. History, Epic, Myth

8/30: Ginsberg, “Howl” (excerpt)
Ezekiel, Chapter 6-7.
Dylan, “A Hard Rain’s a-Gonna Fall.”
Robert Johnson, “Come on in my Kitchen”

9/6: Homer, Odyssey, Ovid, Tristia (excerpts)
Dylan, “Blind Willie McTell,” “Workingman’s Blues #2”
McTell, “Statesboro Blues”
Louis Armstrong, “Saint James Infirmary”

Dylan, “The Lonesome Death of Hattie Carroll,”
“Idiot Wind.”

9/20: Whitman, Leaves of Grass (excerpt)
Dylan, “I Contain Multitudes,” “Murder Most Foul”

9/27: Keats, “Ode on a Grecian Urn,” “Ode to a Nightingale”
Dylan, “Chimes of Freedom,” “Jokerman”

II. Vision, Wonder

10/4: Blake, “Auguries of Innocence”
Dylan, “Every Grain of Sand,” “Lay Down Your Weary Tune”

10/11: Baudelaire, “Evening Harmony,” “The Carcass”
Dylan, “Like a Rolling Stone,” “Sad Eyed Lady of the Lowlands”
       Dylan, “She Belongs to Me,” “Visions of Johanna.”

       Billie Holiday, “Strange Fruit.”
       Dylan, “Desolation Row.”

III. Desire, Error, Memory

10/25: Petrarch, Sonnets, Kerouac, On the Road (excerpt)
       Dylan, “Tangled Up in Blue,” “You’re Gonna Make Me Lonesome When You Go,”

       Dylan, “Ballad of a Thin Man,” “Summer Days”

       Dylan, “When the Ship Comes In,” “All Along the Watchtower,”

       “My Heart’s in the Highlands.”
       Dylan, “Highlands,” “Key West,” “Subterranean Homesick Blues.”

Evening Meeting—Special Event—Projection of “The Last Waltz.”