



ENGL 5210:

“NEW MEXICO REGIONALISM AND MODERNISM”

Summer 2016

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Course Objectives: Only relatively recently have literary historians begun to acknowledge that Northern New Mexico was in its own way as important a locale for the development of Modernism as New York, London, or Paris. In this course, students will analyze literary works by some of the writers who participated in the creation of a “New Mexico Modernism” in the environment that inspired those works. It will also look at a selection of works by native Hispano and Native American writers who respond to New Mexico modernism in their own critical regional way. Exploring these texts in Taos and environs should provide students with a deeper understanding and a more lasting appreciation of them.

Brief Outline: Beginning with Cather’s *Death Comes for the Archbishop*, we will analyze poetry, prose, and non-fiction influenced by the culture and landscape of Northern New Mexico. Our discussion will focus not only on how the authors in question used New Mexico history in their texts but also the ways in which they represent the tri-cultural Southwest. In addition, we will examine the manner in which writers, whether native, expatriate, or visitors to Northern New Mexico, helped to foster a kind of eco-consciousness in the writings we will study. Discussion of the literary works will be supplemented and enhanced by visits to such Taos locales as the Taos Pueblo, the D. H. Lawrence Ranch, the Taos Art Museum and Fechin House, the Harwood Museum, etc..” Students also will spend a day in Santa Fe, visiting relevant historical sites and museums.

Major Texts: Bynner, Witter. *A Canticle of Pan and Other Poems*.
Cabeza de Baca, Fabiola. *We Fed Them Cactus*.
Cather, Willa. *Death Comes for the Archbishop*.
Chávez, Fray Angélico. *New Mexico Triptych*.
Corbin Henderson, Alice. *Red Earth: Poems of New Mexico*.
Silko, Leslie Marmon. *Ceremony*.