

## Reeling Around Paris

Joshua Beckman

V39.9819 Writers in Paris: Poetry (craft seminar)

This class will investigate urban culture and the creative mind, primarily as seen through the eyes of nineteenth and early twentieth century poets and thinkers. We will look at Paris as not only a cultural center that brought together creative artists from around the world, but as a city alive with a variety of diverse societies and imaginative worlds. In eight intensive sessions we will read poems and discuss how poets have engaged the sensations of the city. We will also read a variety of supplemental texts ranging from Stephane Mallarme's fashion writings and Felix Feneon's police blotter, to Djuna Barnes' interviews and Janet Flanner's letters to *The New Yorker*. While each class will focus on a few poems about the daily life of Paris, students will be expected to read more deeply in the work of Guillaume Apollinaire, Charles Baudelaire, Blaise Cendrars, and Gertrude Stein. Students will be required to write brief responses on each of the readings, as well as give in-class presentations.

Day 1. Introduction to Paris literary life

Day 2. Louis Aragon and the Avante Garde Manifesto

Day 3. Charles Baudelaire and Walter Benjamin

Day 4. Guillaume Apollinaire and Felix Feneon

Day 5. Stephane Mallarme and Djuna Barnes

Day 6. Gertrude Stein and Gertrude Stein

Day 7. Blaise Cendrars and the Negritude Poets

Day 8. Pierre Reverdy, Frank O'Hara and Joseph Cornell

## Books

▪ *The Penguin Book of French Poetry: 1820-1950*  
Selected, Translated and Introduced by William Rees  
(Penguin Classics, ISBN-13: 978-0140423853)

▪ *Selected Writings of Gertrude Stein*  
Edited by Carl Van Vechten  
(Vintage, ISBN-13: 978-0679724643)

▪ *Flowers of Evil and Other Works by Charles Baudelaire*  
Edited and Translated by Wallace Fowlie  
(Dover Publications, ISBN-13: 978-0486270920)

▪ *Complete Poems* by Blaise Cendrars  
Trans. by Ron Padgett  
(University of California Press, ISBN-13: 978-0520065802)

▪ *Novels in Three Lines* by Felix Feneon  
(NYRB Classics, ISBN-13: 978-1590172308)

▪ *Selected Writings of Apollinaire*  
Trans. by Roger Shattuck  
(New Directions, ISBN-13: 978-0811200035)

▪ A French-English dictionary of your choosing

Pamphlets of supplemental reading will be provided in Paris.