ENGLISH 624: SEMINAR IN MODERN LITERATURE: SIX MODERN POETS
Jason Puskar, Associate Professor of English
T and TH 12:30-1:45
Curtin 466

***Full syllabus to follow***

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course studies six modernist poets from the United States who wrote between about 1920 and 1970. For many, modernism seemed like a withdrawal from social and political realities after the trauma of World War I. But none of these modernists withdrew completely, and many discovered that modernist forms of poetry were well suited to deeper engagements. Langston Hughes was a racial reformer; Gertrude Stein a popular public intellectual; Muriel Rukeyser an influential protest poet; Gwendolyn Brooks a community activist. Others combined long careers as poets with other professions. William Carlos Williams worked as a family doctor for much of his life, and Wallace Stevens as an insurance lawyer. By the end of the course students will understand a generation of modernist poetry through the work of these engaged modernists. They also will think more about how to combine their own passion for literature with other kinds of commitments.

REQUIRED TEXTS
Langston Hughes, The Collected Poems of Langston Hughes ISBN 0679764089 ($20)
Muriel Rukeyser, Collected Poems of Muriel Rukeyser ISBN 0822959240 ($23)
Gertrude Stein, Selected Writings of Gertrude Stein ISBN 0679724648 ($17)
William Carlos Williams, Selected Poems ISBN 081120958X ($17)

Used copies of these books are all readily available online for much less than the new prices listed above.