Course Title: Beat Poets in San Francisco: A Weekend Retreat Seminar in North Beach
Course Code: WSP 238
Instructor: George Hart

Course Summary:

This course will focus on the Beat writers and San Francisco. We will read a number of essential Beat texts: three of Kerouac’s novels that prominently feature the West and the Bay Area (On the Road, Dharma Bums, and Big Sur), and Ginsberg’s Howl and Other Poems, published by City Lights, with shorter selections from the work of Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Gary Snyder, Michael McClure, Philip Whalen, and Lew Welch. This weekend retreat seminar will be held in North Beach, the Beats’ favored neighborhood in San Francisco, and, along with the seminar sessions held at Doc Ricketts’ Lab, the course includes a tour of City Lights Bookstore, an evening poetry reading, and a walking tour of North Beach.

Grade Options and Requirements:

- No Grade Requested (NGR)
  - This is the default option. No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.
- Due to its short format, this workshop may not be taken for Credit or a Letter Grade.

Tentative Weekend Outline:

Friday, April 10
4:00 pm  Meet at Doc's Lab for Seminar Session #1 (2 hours)
6:00 pm  End of seminar session, hour break
7:00 pm  Group dinner at Doc Ricketts’

Saturday, April 11
9:30 am  Welcome, coffee and muffins (Doc's Lab)
10:00 am Seminar Session #2 (Doc's Lab)
12:00 pm Lunch break (everybody on their own)
1:30 pm  Seminar Session #3 (Doc's Lab)
4:00 - 5:00 Tour of City Lights with Peter
8:00 pm  Public poetry reading at Doc's Lab

Sunday, April 12
9:30 am  Seminar Session #4
11:00 am Walking tour of Beat North Beach

Please contact the Stanford Continuing Studies office with any questions
365 Lasuen St., Stanford, CA 94305
continuingstudies@stanford.edu
650-725-2650
Reading schedule:

Session #1: Jack Kerouac, *On the Road*

Additional readings provided as PDFs:
Kerouac, from *Visions of Cody*
Kerouac, “Belief and Technique for Modern Prose”
Kerouac, “Essentials of Spontaneous Prose”
Ginsberg, “The Green Automobile”

Session #2: Allen Ginsberg, *Howl and Other Poems*

Additional readings provided as PDFs:
Ginsberg, “Notes for *Howl and Other Poems*”

Session #3: Jack Kerouac, *Dharma Bums*

Additional readings provided as PDFs:
Snyder, selections from *Cold Mountain*
Snyder, selections from *Riprap,*
McClure, from *Scratching the Beat Surface*

Session #4: Jack Kerouac, *Big Sur*

Additional readings provided as PDFs:
Welch, selected poems
Whalen, selected poems
Ferlinghetti, selected poems