

English 9139B

Words are Victims : Modernist Poetry and the Ruins of Language

Prof. Allan Pero

Office: AHB 3G22

Email: apero@uwo.ca

Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:30-2:30, or by appointment

Class Times/Location: Wednesdays 3:30-6:30/ Lawson Hall 2210

Allegory is in the realm of thought what ruins are in the realm of things Walter Benjamin,
The Origin of German Tragic Drama

Georges Bataille, *Inner Experience*

This course will explore the poetic and theoretical ways in which several modernist poets
What does it mean to think
of poetry as an allegorical space in which language is fragmented, broken or lying in ruins? How
does poetry express or conjure such spaces into being or conversely, mourn their collapse?
How do the modernist obsessions with precision and concentration victimize language in the
guises of suspicion and skepticism, of nostalgia or novelty,

1 Major Paper, (35%) - Due April 19th (Two weeks after the course ends)

Method of Evaluation:

Seminar Presentation (30 minutes of prepared material) - (35%)

The seminar presentation will consist of a 30-minute presentation on a topic related to the course.

N. B. Major Paper Due Wednesday April 19th

N. B. Class attendance and participation are not only welcomed, but expected.

Class Schedule:

January

Wednesday 11th

First Meeting Introduction; Screening: Jean Cocteau -

Wednesday 8th

Mina Loy from *The Lost Lunar Baedeker*: