Engl-GA.3840.001
The Pound Era? Poetic form and tradition in the Twentieth Century
Professor Nicholls

Since Hugh Kenner popularized this phrase in the title of his 1971 book we have had to reckon with the idea that a long period of writing has been significantly marked by the influence of Ezra Pound. This course weighs that claim, tracing the many ways in which younger poets have drawn from and reacted—positively and negatively—to his work. We shall begin by reading a selection of Pound’s poetry and prose, placing particular emphasis on his long poem, *The Cantos*. In the weeks that follow, we shall examine the impact of Pound’s theory and practice on a wide range of younger poets that may include Louis Zukofsky, George Oppen, Basil Bunting, Robert Duncan, Charles Olson, Allen Ginsberg, Ed Dorn, Susan Howe, Ed Sanders, J. H. Prynne and Geoffrey Hill. As that list suggests, we shall be especially concerned with Pound’s influence on the evolution of the long poem in the United States and Britain.