

21 September 2016  
Farm to Text Notes

Williams, *Country and the City*

Attendance:

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Kim Adams

- Politics and Letters – Williams, correspondences
- To Saxham
  - bountiful land gives willingly
- Williams's aesthetic evaluation separate from political critique
- builds canon in privileging Jonson as the more "convincing poet"?
  - question of gender?
- To Penhurst
  - man in concert with nature
  - Williams contrasting Jonson with Carew
  - Crabbe "The Village", accessing locus amoenus
  - perfect balance city/country
  - Virgil, *Eclogues* – tension of land loss and this place of leisure
- Bastardization of the pastoral?
  - localized dream, Crabbe's criticism of Goldsmith
  - dangerous evolution of pastoral: nuanced Virgilian form -> symbolic in localized dream -> idealization of actual English life -> elision of real conditions of social relations
- English life, what is at risk? When does the tradition become codified?
- pg 19 "It is time that this bluff was called..."
- pg 17 – earlier tension in Virgil gets erased
- Arcadia, Golden Age becomes present – Williams's criticism against the ideological function of the pastoral
- pg 18 making Utopia to make one aware of/attempt to improve the present
  - subversiveness of golden age
- Nostalgia? pg 12
  - using past to criticize the present
  - underneath nostalgia? What are the real conditions of each moment that pines for "Old England?"
- overlooking women
- Audrey Loyd????? (spelling?) women's labor 1700s, mid-1800s decrease, none by 1950?

- Williams and nostalgia different from childhood nostalgia, different instantiations of nostalgia mark each moment
- two models of lord conflated in last sentence of 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph of pg 31
  - not mystification of synonyms but of the benevolent giver
  - communion mystifies unequal social relations
- bonus reading pg 323, “naturally...”
- urban idiocy pg 322
  - food grows from shops, illusion of “real work” occurring on 2<sup>nd</sup> level of handling/transforming raw materials.