English 594: Graduate Forms (Contemporary Literature Seminar)  T 4:00-7:30

In this class, we will explore the role of the poet as "world figure." The class will examine poets (non U.S. poets, primarily) who function in the world as not just ambassadors of language, but also as political figures, justice warriors, freedom fighters, etc. Poets whose work we will read include Gabriel Garcia Lorca, Pablo Neruda, Gabriela Mistral, Anna Akhmatova, Irina Ratushinskaya, Dennis Brutus, Aime Cesaire, Nazim Hikmet, Cesar Vallejo, Czeslaw Milosz, Joseph Brodsky, Osip Mandelstam, and other poets of political/sociological impact. Questions this class will seek to answer: why are so many of these poets Marxists? Why were so many forced into exile? What makes poetry dangerous in the rest of the world, but a nonfactor in the U.S.? Students in the class will have the option to write a creative or scholarly project in response to the reading list above.

A Book of Luminous Things: An International Anthology of Poetry, Czeslaw Milosz, editor (Mariner Books)

Reference websites:
http://www.poetryintranslation.com
http://www.poetrytranslation.org