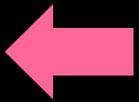
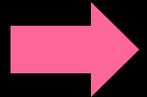


LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD



Whitman: The Democratic Experiment
Democratic Selfhood and “Literature”

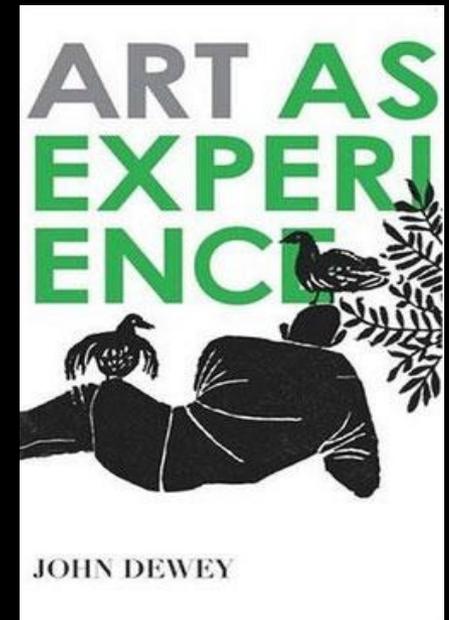


McLuhan: The Primacy of Media
Lanier: A New Technological Imagination,
Digital Humanism

DEWEY'S "EXPRESSIVE OBJECT"

FROM *ART AS EXPERIENCE*

"A poem and picture* present material passed through the alembic** of personal experience. They have no precedents*** in existence or in universal being. But, nonetheless, their material came from the public world and so has qualities in common with the material of other experiences, while the product awakens in other persons new perceptions of the meanings of the common world."



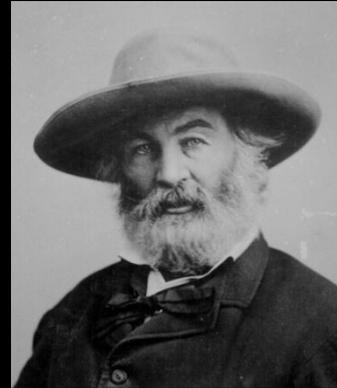
1934

* or anything we count as "expressive object" / artwork

** device for transformation, refinement, distillation

*** law, original, or standard to which they refer

PARALLEL PATHS: PERCEPTION & POLITICS



STEVENS

1819-1892

HUGHES



1879-1955

*Let America Be
America Again, 1938*

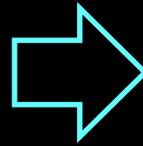
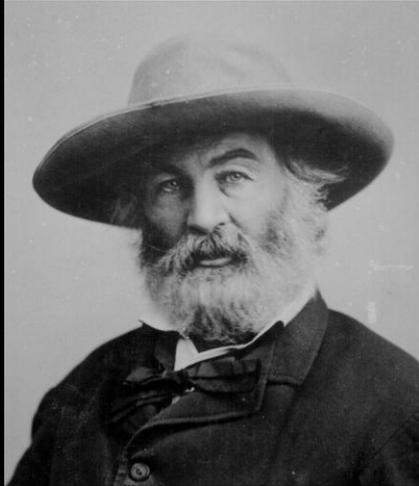
*The Idea of Order
at Key West, 1934*

AMERICAN IMAGINATION



1902-1967

WHITMAN & STEVENS



DEMOCRACY & LITERATURE
“Religious Democracy”

IMAGINATION & REALITY
Poetic Perception

Goal:

dev. democratic selfhood

rethink/value imagination

Criticize our failure to:

create democratic culture

overcome Romanticism

QUIZ 9: STEVENS

PERCEPTION, IDEAS, POLITICS

AFFECTING CHANGE

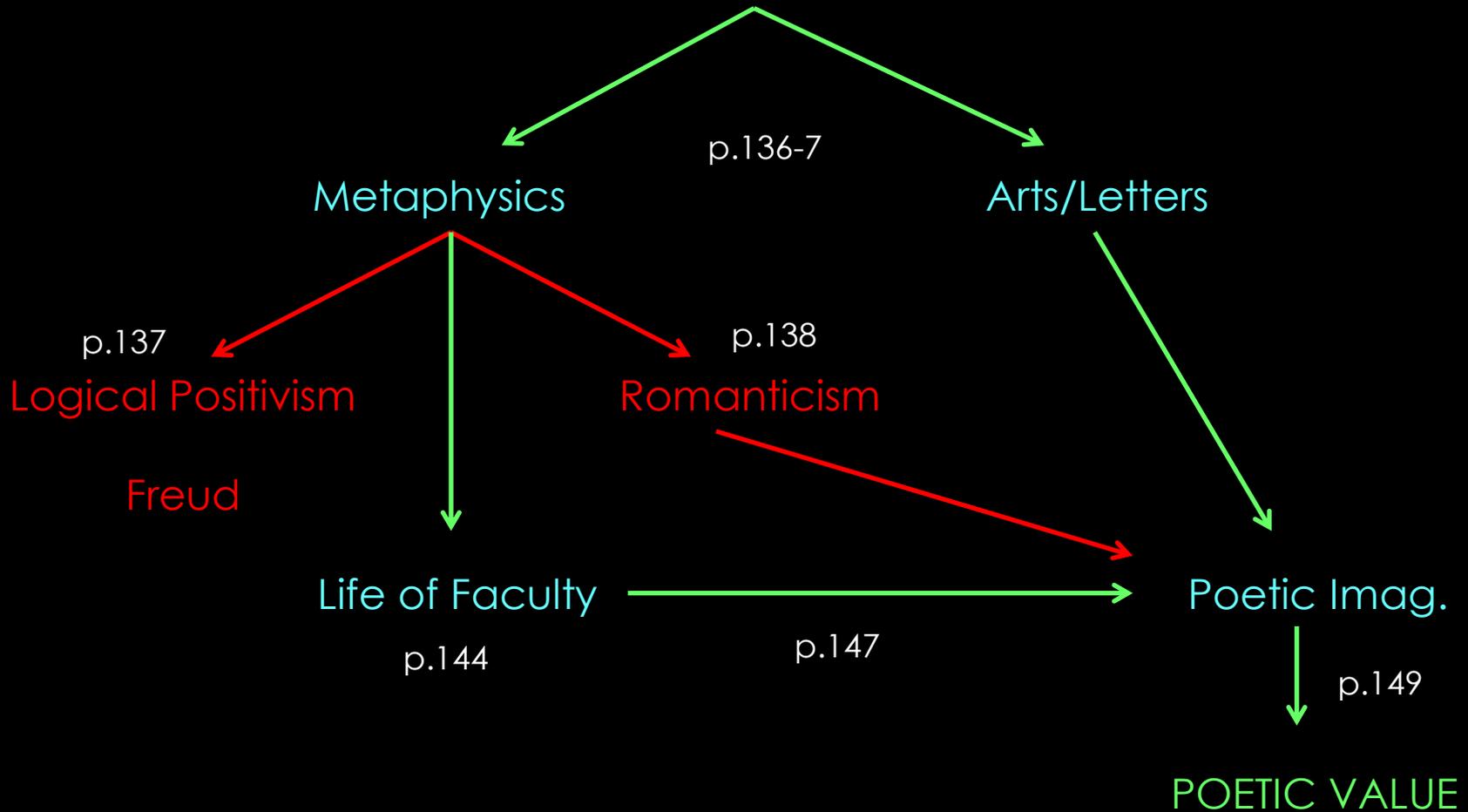
1. Whitman: affect “spiritual,” cultural change, politics and policy will follow / *aesthetic experience of ideas (democracy)*
cf. “Occupy Movement,” “Tea Party”
2. Stevens: affect perceptual change, new values and potentials will follow / *imaginative perception of reality (potentiality)*

FUNCTION OF “POETIC VALUE”

1. “Value of knowledge”
a matter of defining and understanding reality, of mastery
2. “Value of faith”
a matter of belief about reality, of attitude
3. “Poetic value” (of imaginative works)
a matter of attention & perception, of apprehending possibilities and relations in yourself, experience, and the world

STEVENS'S CRITIQUE OF IMAGINATION

IMAGINATION



THE VALUE OF IMAGINATIVE WORKS

IMAGINATION AS SOURCE OF VALUE

“The imagination is the power of the mind over the possibilities of things; but if this constitutes a certain single characteristic, it is the source not of a certain single value but of as many values as reside in the possibilities of things” (136)

Q: Can Art & Literature teach virtue, morals?

A: No. But this MISSES THE POINT COMPLETELY.

MORAL CAPACITY VS. ETHICAL INSTRUCTION

The cultural value of ART is not in providing ethical codes or paths to the Good, but in developing a moral imagination sensitive to moral problems, capable of empathy, perceptive of the complexity of human experience and the world.

THE IDEA OF ORDER AT KEY WEST

