

HL 206/HL 2006: Modernism

This course surveys European and American Modernist literature from the beginning of the twentieth century to the 1950s. For many artists, the trauma of the First World War and its aftermath led to an increased sense of anxiety and a loss of faith in traditional beliefs or cultural systems as well as in outmoded artistic techniques. Literature of this period was heavily influenced by the philosophical works of Marx and Nietzsche as well as by the advances made in science by Darwin and Einstein. Also of vital importance to the literary culture of the Modernist movement was the new field of psychoanalysis led by figures such as Freud and Jung. Reflecting the profound transitions of the period, Modernist writers offered radical new formal innovations while challenging moral, sexual, and political orthodoxies. Modernism is also marked by a preoccupation with the role of the artist itself. By studying the key texts and writers of modernism we will seek to understand the main concerns and features of this 'movement'.

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Core Texts

A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man by James Joyce
Death in Venice by Thomas Mann

Handouts of essays and poetry will be given out as needed or assigned from *The Norton Anthology*, Volume 2. Other material will be made available on Edventure/Blackboard.

Course Assessment

Class participation: 10%

Group presentation: 10%

Essay (2500 words): 30%.

Exam: 50%

Seminar Schedule (subject to minor changes)

Week one: Modernist aesthetics and historical/cultural contexts

Week two: Philosopher as Antichrist

Friedrich Nietzsche, selection

Week three: Modernists on Modernism

Virginia Woolf, 'Modern Fiction' (1919)

T.S. Eliot, 'Tradition and the Individual Talent' (1919)

Eugene Jolas, 'Manifesto: The Revolution of the Word' (1929)

Wyndham Lewis et al, 'Blast: Review of the Great English Vortex' (1914)

Fillippo Tommaso Marinetti, 'The Founding and Manifesto of Futurism' (1909)

Week four: Yeats – Romantic or Modernist?

Selection in *Norton* and 'The Symbolism of Poetry' (1900)

Week five: Scrupulous meanness

Joyce, 'The Sisters', 'Eveline', and 'The Dead' from *Dubliners* (1914)

Week six: Uncreated conscience

Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (1916)

Week seven: Modernism and Feminism

'A Room of One's Own' (1929)

Week eight: Reading week

Week nine: Epic poetry and mythic paradigms

T. S. Eliot, *The Waste Land* (1922) and 'Ulysses, Order, and Myth' (1922)
(essay due this week)

Week ten: Decadence and decay

Thomas Mann, *Death in Venice* (1924)

Week eleven: Theory of omission

Ernest Hemingway, 'Hills like White Elephants' (1927) and 'A Clean, Well-Lighted Place' (1933)

Week twelve: Imagism and American modernist poetry

Poetry by Ezra Pound, Wallace Stevens, and William Carlos Williams. F. S. Flint, *Imagisme* (1913); Ezra Pound, *A Few Don'ts by an Imagiste* (1913)

Week thirteen: Limits of modernism, roots of postmodernism

Excerpts from Joyce's *Finnegans Wake* (1939)

Secondary Texts

General:

Armstrong, Tim. *Modernism: A Cultural History*. Cambridge: Polity, 2005.

Bloom, Clive (Ed). *Literature and Culture in Modern Britain: 1900-1929*. Vol. 1. London: Longman, 1993.

Bradbury, Malcolm and McFarlane, James. *Modernism: A Guide to European Literature 1890-1930*. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1991.

Bradshaw, David and Dettmar, Kevin J. H (Eds). *A Companion to Modernist Literature and Culture*. Massachusetts: Blackwell Publishing, 2006.

Brooker et al (Eds). *The Oxford Handbook of Modernisms*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Carter, Mia and Friedmann, Alan Warren (Eds). *Modernism and Literature – An Introduction and Reader*. London and New York: Routledge, 2013.

Danius, Sara. *The Sense of Modernism: Technology, Perception, and Aesthetics*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2002.

Ellmann, Richard and Feidelson Jr, Charles. *The Modern Tradition: Backgrounds of Modern Literature*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1965.

Eysteinnsson, Asradur and Liska, Vivian. *Modernism* (in two volumes). Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 2007.

Eysteinnsson, Astradur. *The Concept of Modernism*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 1990.

Huyssen, Andreas. *After the Great Divide: Modernism, Mass Culture, Postmodernism*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1986.

Kalaidjian, Walter (Ed.). *The Cambridge Companion to American Modernism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005.

Kolocotroni, Vassiliki et al (Eds). *Modernism: An Anthology of Sources and Documents*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998.

Lewis, Pericles. *The Cambridge Introduction to Modernism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007.

Levenson, Michael. *A Genealogy of Modernism: A Study of English Literary Doctrine 1908-1922*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1984.

Levenson, Michael (Ed). *The Cambridge Companion to Modernism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999.

Lewis, Pericles (Ed). *The Cambridge Introduction to European Modernism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011.

Lodge, David. *The Modes of Modern Writing: Metaphor, Metonymy, and the Typology of Modern Literature*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1977.

Quinones, Ricardo J. *Mapping Literary Modernism*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1985.

Nietzsche:

Gooding-Williams, R. 'Nietzsche's Pursuit of Modernism' in *New German Critique* No. 41, Special Issue on the Critiques of the Enlightenment (Spring – Summer, 1987), pp. 95–108.

Magnus, Bernd and Higgins, Kathleen M (Eds). *The Cambridge Companion to Nietzsche*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

Weller, Shane. Nietzsche among the Modernists' in *Modernism/Modernity* (Vol. 14, Number 4, 2007), pp. 625–643.

Yeats:

Ellmann, Richard. *Yeats: The Man and the Masks*. New York and London: Norton, 1999.

Faherty, Michael (Ed.). *The Poetry of W. B. Yeats*. Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2005.

Holdeman, David. *The Cambridge Companion to W. B. Yeats*. Cambridge; Cambridge University Press, 2006.

Joyce:

Attridge, Derek (Ed.). *The Cambridge Companion to James Joyce*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990.

Bloom, Harold (Ed.). *James Joyce's A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*. Philadelphia: Chelsea House, 1988.

Bloom, Harold (Ed.). *James Joyce's Dubliners*. Philadelphia: Chelsea House, 1988.

Ellmann, Richard. *James Joyce*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1982.

Eliot:

Moody, A David (Ed). *The Cambridge Companion to T. S. Eliot*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994.

Menand, Louis. *Discovering Modernism: T. S. Eliot and His Context*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987.

Selby, Nick (Ed). *T. S. Eliot: The Waste Land*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1999.

Mann:

Alexander, Doris. *Creating Literature out of Life*. University Park: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1996.

Luckás, Georg. *Essays on Thomas Mann*. London: Merlin, 1964.

Robertson, Richie (Ed.). *The Cambridge Companion to Thomas Mann*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.

Shookman, Ellis. *Thomas Mann's Death in Venice: A Novel and its Critics*. Rochester, Camden House, 2003.

Woolf:

Froula, Christine. *Virginia Woolf and the Bloomsbury Avant-Garde*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2005.

Goldman, Jane. *The Cambridge Introduction to Virginia Woolf*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.

Randall, Byrony and Goldman, Jane (Eds.). *Virginia Woolf in Context*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012.

Roe, Sue and Sellers, Susan (Eds.), *The Cambridge Companion to Virginia Woolf*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000.

Sim, Lorraine. *Virginia Woolf: The Patterns of Ordinary Experience*. Farnham: Ashgate, 2010.

Hemingway:

Comely, Nancy R. and Scholes, Robert E. *Hemingway's Genders*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1996.

Donaldson, Scott (Ed.). *The Cambridge Companion to Ernest Hemingway*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.

Flora, Joseph M. *Ernest Hemingway: A Study of the Short Fiction*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1989.

Wagner-Martin, Linda. *Ernest Hemingway: A Literary Life*. Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2010.

Wagner-Martin (Ed.). *Hemingway: Eight Decades of Criticism*. East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 2008.

American Modernist Poetry:

Bates, Milton J. *Wallace Stevens: A Mythology of Self*. University of California Press, 1985.

Beach, Christopher. *The Cambridge Introduction to Twentieth-Century American Poetry*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Fredman, Stephen. *A Concise Companion to Twentieth Century American Poetry*. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2005.

Parini, Jay and Miller, Brett C. (Eds.). *The Columbia History of American Poetry*. New York: Columbia UP, 1993.

Perkins, David. *A History of Modern Poetry*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1987.