

HL 2006: Modernism
(course guide subject to change)

This course surveys Modernism of the early to mid 20th century. Reflecting the profound transitions and devastating events of this period, the extreme politics of the era, and the arrival of 'modernity', Modernist writers offered radical new formal innovations while challenging moral, sexual, and political conventions. Literature of this period was also heavily influenced by the philosophical works of Marx and Nietzsche as well as by the advances made in science and psychoanalysis by Darwin and Freud respectively. 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 belief systems as well as in outmoded artistic techniques. By studying the key texts and writers of Modernism we will seek to understand the main concerns and features of this phenomenon.

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Texts

Primary texts will be made available on Edventure/Blackboard.

Course Assessment

Class participation: 25%

Essay (2500 words): 25%.

Exam: 50%

NB: Late essay submissions will not be accepted

Seminar Schedule (subject to minor changes)

Week one: Modernist aesthetics and historical/cultural contexts

Week two: Modernists on Modernism

Fillippo Tommaso Marinetti, 'The Founding and Manifesto of Futurism' (1909)
Wyndham Lewis et al, 'Blast: Review of the Great English Vortex' (1914)
Virginia Woolf, 'Modern Fiction' (1919)
T.S. Eliot, 'Tradition and the Individual Talent' (1919)
Eugene Jolas, 'Manifesto: The Revolution of the Word' (1929)

Week three: Philosopher as Antichrist

Friedrich Nietzsche, selection

Week four: Yeats – Romantic or Modernist?

Selected poetry

Week five: Scrupulous meanness

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

Week six: "a heap of dung, crawling with worms, photographed by a cinema camera through a microscope"

James Joyce, selections from *Ulysses* (1922)

Week seven: Horror and misfortune

Franz Kafka, 'Before the Law' (1916), 'An Imperial Message' (1919), and 'The Metamorphosis' (1915)

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: Modernism and Feminism

Mina Loy, 'Feminist Manifesto' (1914) and Virginia Woolf, 'A Room of One's Own' (1929)

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: Modernism/Postmodernism

Samuel Beckett, *Waiting for Godot* (1953)

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.
- Huysen, 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. *Modernism*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2011.
- 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.

Surette, Leon. *The Birth of Modernism*. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1993.

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.

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.

Kafka

Preece, Julian (ed). *The Cambridge Companion to Kafka*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.

Duttlinger, Carolin (ed). *The Cambridge Introduction to Franz Kafka* (Cambridge Introductions to Literature). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013.