

HL 2006: Modernism
Course guide subject to change
Please print only when necessary



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HL2006: Modernism

This course surveys European and American Modernist literature. The historical events and social/cultural transformations of the late 19th/early 20th centuries (the theories of Darwin, Nietzsche, Marx, Freud; advances in science and technology; increased urbanisation; the rise of extreme right and left-wing politics; the horrors of the First World War; the breaking up of empires), led to widespread feelings of anxiety, disillusionment, and disorientation in many societies. However, these social and cultural factors also led to attempts at cultural revival, renewal, and renovation. Reflecting the profound transitions of the period, Modernist writers offered radical new formal experiments and innovations, pushed the boundaries of what was considered acceptable subject matter, and reflected the new political realities of the era. By studying some of the key texts and writers of Modernist literature, we will seek to understand the main concerns and characteristics of this multi-faceted phenomenon.

Texts

Texts will be made available on Edventure/Blackboard.

Course Assessment

Class participation: 15%

Essay (2500 words): 35%.

Exam: 50%

Seminar Schedule (subject to minor changes)

Week one: Introduction – modernist aesthetics and historical/cultural contexts

Week two: Make it New

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

Virginia Woolf, 'Modern Fiction' (1919)

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

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

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

Week three: Yeats – Romantic or Modernist?

Selection of Yeats's poetry

Week four: Scrupulous meanness

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

Week five: Horror and misfortune

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

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

James Joyce, 'Wandering Rocks' from *Ulysses* (1922)

Week seven: Reading week

Week eight: Poetry and myth

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

Week nine: Decadence and decay

Thomas Mann, *Death in Venice* (1924)

Week ten: Modernism and Feminism

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

Week eleven: Imagism

F. S. Flint, *Imagisme* (1913); Ezra Pound, *A Few Don'ts by an Imagiste* (1913).

Poetry by Ezra Pound and William Carlos Williams.

Week twelve: The Supreme Fiction

Poetry by Wallace Stevens

Week thirteen: Modernism/Postmodernism

Samuel Beckett, *Ping* (1967)

Suggested Reading

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.

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

Eysteinson, 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.

Beckett:

Ackerley, C.J. and Gontarski, S.E. (Eds). *The Faber Companion to Samuel Beckett*. London: Faber and Faber, 2006.

Knowlson, James. *Damned to Fame: The Life of Samuel Beckett*. London: Bloomsbury, 1996.

Van Hulle, Dirk (Ed). *The New Cambridge Companion to Samuel Beckett*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015.

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.

Joyce:

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

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

Ellmann, Richard. *James Joyce* (Rev. Ed). New York: Oxford University Press, 1982.

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.

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.

Williams, Stevens, etc:

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.

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.

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.