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HL2006: Modernism

Reflecting the profound transitions and anxieties of the late 19th / early 20th centuries, Modernism offered radical new literary innovations. By studying some of the key texts and writers of Modernist literature we will seek to understand the main concerns and features of this multi-faceted phenomenon.

Texts

Some texts can be found in the Norton Anthology. All other texts will be made available on Blackboard.

Course Assessment

Tutorial 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)
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: Poetry and myth
T. S. Eliot, The Waste Land (1922) and ‘Ulysses, Order, and Myth’ (1922)

Week eight: Decadence and decay
Thomas Mann, Death in Venice (1924)

Week nine: Modernism and Feminism
Mina Loy, ‘Feminist Manifesto’ (1914) and Virginia Woolf, ‘A Room of One’s Own’ (1929)

Week ten: 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 eleven: The Supreme Fiction
Poetry by Wallace Stevens

Week twelve: Modernism/Postmodernism
Samuel Beckett, Ping (1967)

Week thirteen: Conclusion / Revision
Suggested Reading

General:


**Beckett:**


**Eliot:**


**Joyce:**


**Kafka**


**Mann:**


**Williams, Stevens, etc:**


**Woolf:**


**Yeats:**

