

B.A. (Honours) in Contemporary English Studies

Course Title	:	Modernism in Painting and Literature
Course Code	:	ENG381
Recommended Study Year	:	2 nd & 3 rd Year
No. of Credits/Term	:	3
Mode of Tuition	:	Lecture and Tutorial
Class Contact Hours	:	2 hours Lecture/week 1 hour Tutorial/week
Category in Major Programme	:	Disciplinary Elective
Prerequisite(s)	:	N/A
Co-requisite(s)	:	N/A
Exclusion(s)	:	N/A
Exemption Requirement(s)	:	N/A

Brief Course Description

This course is an introduction to Modernism in literature and painting. Literary historians see the beginning of the modernist revolt in the 1890s but most scholars agree that what is called “high modernism”, marked by an astonishing range of artistic achievement in literature, painting, architecture and music, came between the years 1910 to the mid-1920s. Though debates about what constitutes modernism continue, there is general agreement that modernist art involves a deliberate and radical break with some of the traditional bases of Western art and culture. Traditional ways of seeing social organization, religion, morality, relations between art and reality, and the human self come under scrutiny through modernist art. This course exposes students to an introductory sampling of the theory and practice of modernism. Modernism is seen as a key movement in 20th century artistic endeavour, a creativity which continues as a powerful force in contemporary thought, art and culture. The course will focus on some well-known examples of modernist literature and a gallery of modernist paintings.

Aims

This course aims to acquaint students with representative examples of modernist culture and to consider the nature and theory of modernism. In addition to exploring the particular qualities of modernism, the course also aims to develop in students a creative understanding of some key examples that will enlarge their appreciation of texts and visual forms of art.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, students are expected to have learned about and/or experienced:

1. The history and theory of modernist art
2. A sample of modernist literary texts in poetry, fiction and drama
3. A gallery of modernist painting, drawn from cubism, the blaue reiter group, expressionism and the avant garde
4. Writing and discussing critically about literature and visual art forms

Indicative Content

1. The rise of modernism and its intellectual antecedents
2. The concept of the modern
3. Poetry: Imagism, “The Waste Land” [T.S. Eliot], “Hugh Selwyn Mauberley [Ezra Pound]
4. Fiction: *To the Lighthouse* [Virginia Woolf], **OR** *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* [James Joyce]
5. Drama: “Six Characters in Search of an Author” [Luigi Pirandello]
6. Picasso, Braque and Cubism
7. The Blaue Reiter Group: Klee & Kandinsky
8. Expressionism: Munch, Kokoschka
9. Dadaism and Surrealism: Duchamp & Dali

Teaching Method

The course consists of lectures by the instructor in which the theory of the Modernist movement is presented. The modes and techniques of literary analysis and the analysis of visual media are also demonstrated through a focus on key texts. The course includes tutorials which enable the student to discuss more informally the issues raised in lecture.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

Students’ progress towards the learning outcomes outlined above will be measured by continuous assessments on the students’ engagement with the lectures, tutorial discussions, readings, presentations, and written assignments. In addition, students’ knowledge will be assessed by a final examination at the end of the term.

Assessment

Continuous assessment: 70% (1 short paper, 1 class presentation and 1 term paper)
Final examination: 30%

Required Readings

T.S. Eliot, "The Waste Land";
Ezra Pound, "High Selwyn-Mauberley";
A Selection of 'Imagist' poems from the anthology *Imagism*;
Virginia Woolf, *To the Lighthouse* **OR**
James Joyce, *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*;
Luigi Pirandello, "Six Characters in Search of an Author";
A Gallery of paintings from the movements and artists listed in the indicative content.

Supplementary Readings

Ardis, Ann and Lewis, Leslie, *Women's Experience of Modernity*, (Johns Hopkins UP, 2002).
Berman, Jessica, *Modernist Fiction, Cosmopolitanism and the politics of community*, (CUP 2001).
Booth, Howard and Rigby, Nigel (eds), *Modernism and Empire*, (MUP, 2000).
Bradbury, Malcolm and McFarlane, James (eds), *Modernism*, (Penguin, 1976).
Butler, Christopher, *Early Modernism: literature, music and painting 1900-1916*, (Clarendon, 1994)
Childs, Peter, *Modernism*, (Routledge, 2000).
Faulkner, Peter (ed), *Modernist Reader: Modernism in England 1910-1930*, (Batsford, 1986).
Ferrall, Charles, *Modernist Writing and Reactionary Politics*, (CUP, 2001).
Goldman, Jane, *Modernism: Image to Apocalypse*, (Palgrave 2003).
Hanscombe, Gillian and Smyers, Virginia, *Writing for their Lives: the Modernist Women 1910-1940*, (The Women's Press, 1987).
Kenner, Hugh, *The Pound Era: The Age of Ezra Pound, T.S. Eliot, James Joyce and Wyndham Lewis*, (Faber and Faber, 1972).
Kime Scott, Bonnie (ed.), *The Gender of Modernism*, (Indiana UP, 1995).
Kolocotroni, Vassiliki, Jane Goldman and Olga Taxidou (eds), *Modernism: An Anthology of Sources and Documents*, (Edinburgh University Press 1998).
Levenson, Michael (ed), *Cambridge Companion to Modernism*, (Cambridge University Press, 1999).
----- *A Genealogy of Modernism*, (CUP, 1984).
----- *Modernism and the Fate of Individuality: Character and Novelistic Form from Conrad to Woolf*, (CUP 1991).
Matz, Jessie, *Literary Impressionism and Modernist aesthetics*, (CUP, 2001).
Nicholls, Peter, *Modernisms: A Literary Guide*, (Macmillan, 1995).

- Peppis, Paul, *Literature, Politics and the English Avant-Garde: nation and empire 1901-1918*, (CUP, 2000).
- Roston, Murray, *Modernist Patterns in Literature and the Visual Arts*, (NYUP, 1999).
- Schwarz, Daniel, *Reconfiguring Modernism: Explorations in the Relationships Between Modern Art and Modern Literature*, (Macmillan, 1997).
- Stevens, Hugh and Howlett, Caroline (eds), *Modernist Sexualities*, (MUP, 2000).
- Stevenson, Randall, *Modernist Fiction*, (Prentice Hall, 1998).
- Tate, Trudi, *Modernism, History and the First World War*, (MUP, 1998).
- Torgovnick, Marianna, *The Visual Arts, Pictorialism, and the Novel: James, Lawrence, and Woolf*, (Princeton University Press, 1985).
- Tratner, Michael, *Modernism and Mass Politics: Joyce, Woolf, Eliot, Yeats*, (Stanford University Press, 1995).
- Trotter, David, *The English Novel in History, 1895-1920*, (Routledge, 1993).
- *Paranoid Modernism*, (OUP, 2001).
- Whitworth, Michael, *Einstein's Wake: relativity, metaphor and modernist literature*, (OUP, 2002).
- Wilson, Ian, Gould, Warwick and Chernaik, Warren (eds), *Modernist Writers and the Marketplace*, (Macmillan, 1996).