

Course Name: Modernism

Instructor: Yi-Chuang E Lin

Credit: 3

Course Description: In this course, we will cover a wide range of Modernist Literature in different genres along with the socio-political and economical context of the 'Modern World'. Through the works of Joseph Conrad, Marcel Proust, E. M. Forster, D. H. Lawrence, Virginia Woolf, Thomas Mann, William Faulkner, and T. S. Eliot, we will explore how these writers, by experimenting with new possibilities of writing, try to accommodate a 'modern world' of speculative market economy, of quantum mechanics, of Big Band that has put values, traditional physics of Newton's law, orders, proprieties et al topsy-turvy. We will explore with these writers not only newly discovered geographical but also mental territories. We will look at how they aspire to capture "the realities" with new writing methods and style. And we will investigate their nostalgic and almost anti-progress search for a return to an old world of essence, of orders, of prestige. Throughout the course, we will ask what is 'Modernism'? How does it evolve? And what point does it attempt at with all its extravagances?

Assessments:

25% Participation

30% Midterm Paper

30% Final Paper

15% Creative Response

Required Text:

Joseph Conrad, Heart of Darkness

Virginia Woolf, The Waves

Virginia Woolf, 'Mr. Bennett and Mrs. Brown'

Virginia Woolf, Mrs. Dalloway

Katherine Mansfield, The Garden Party

E. M. Foster, Howards End

Marcel Proust, Swann's Way

D H Lawrence, The Fox

Thomas Mann, Doctor Faustus  
William Faulkner, As I lay Dying  
T. S. Eliot, The Waste Land

Week One: Joseph Conrad, Heart of Darkness  
(Virginia Woolf, The Voyage Out)

Week Two: John Carey, The Intellectuals and the Masses

Week Three: Virginia Woolf, Mr. Bennett and Mrs. Brown  
Marcel Proust, Swann's Way

Week Four: Aspects of the Novel  
E. M. Forster, Howards End

Week Five: E. M. Forster Howards End

Week Six: T. S. Eliot, Tradition and Individual Talents  
The Waste Land

Week Seven: T. S. Eliot, The Waste Land

Week Eight: Virginia Woolf, The Waves

Week Nine: Virginia Woolf, The Waves

Midterm Due

Week Ten: D H Lawrence, The Fox

Week Eleven: George Orwell, The Road to Wigan Pier

Week Twelve: William Faulkner, As I Lay Dying

Week Thirteen: William Faulkner, As I Lay Dying

Week Fourteen: Katherine Mansfield, The Garden Party  
Virginia Woolf, Mrs. Dalloway

Week Fifteen: Virginia Woolf, Mrs. Dalloway

Week Sixteen: Thomas Mann, Doctor Faustus

Week Seventeen: Thomas Mann: Doctor Faustus

Week Eighteen: Thomas Mann: Doctor Faustus

Final Paper Due