

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 James Joyce, Marcel Proust, E. M. Forster, Virginia Woolf, T. S. Eliot, William Faulkner, etc., 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 Bang Theory 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 '(High) Modernism'? How does it evolve? And what point does it attempt at with all its extravagances?

Grading: 25% Participation(20% in class presentation), 30% Midterm Paper, 30% Final Paper, 15% Creative or Critical Response

Required Text:

Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*

E. M. Forster, *Howards End*

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

Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*

Katherine Mansfield, "The Garden Party"

T. S. Eliot, *The Waste Land*

T. S. Eliot, "Tradition and Individual Talents"

James Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*

Marcel Proust, "Swann's Way"

William Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying*

Thomas Mann, *Death in Venice*

2/13: Introduction

John Carey, *The intellectuals and the Masses*
Understand Nietzsche, Understanding Modernism
Virginia Woolf, "Mr Bennett and Mrs. Brown"
'Modern Fiction'

2/20: Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*

3/6: E. M. Forster, *Howards End*

3/13: E. M. Forster, *Howards End*

3/20: Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*

Katherine Mansfield, "The Garden Party"

3/27: Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*

4/10: T. S. Eliot, "Tradition and Individual Talents"

The Waste Land

4/17: T. S. Eliot, *The Waste Land*

4/24: James Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*

5/1: James Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*

5/8: Marcel Proust, *Swann's Way* (Overture and Combray)

5/15: Marcel Proust, *Swann's Way* (Overture and Combray)

5/22: William Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying*

6/5: William Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying*

6/12: Thomas Mann, *Death in Venice*