

EH4007: Literary Modernisms

4th Year Autumn Semester AY 2023/2024

Module Leader: Dr Sinead McDermott

Office: ER3-007 (3rd floor, Engineering Research Building)

Student drop-in hours: Mondays 11-1. You are welcome to call to my office at any time during this slot without an appointment. I would encourage you to make use of these drop-in times, either to discuss your own progress in the module or if you have questions about the module content. **Email** should be reserved for **quick queries**.

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Lecturers: Dr Sinead McDermott, Dr Niamh Hehir (Niamh.Hehir@ul.ie)

Guest Lecturer: Dr Laura Ryan.

Tutors: Niamh Hehir, Sinead Crowley (Sinead.C.Crowley@ul.ie), Paula Dias Garcia (Paula.DiasGarcia@ul.ie), Sean O'Rourke (Sean.ORourke@ul.ie)

School Administrators:

Ms Niamh O'Sullivan Walsh and Ms Michelle Mortell, School of English, Irish and Communication.

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Lectures: Mondays **9.30**-11am in FB028 Foundation Building (Weeks 1-12) **Note** that from Week 2 onwards, lectures will start at 9.30am to allow students time to get to campus.

Tutorials: various times – see www.timetable.ul.ie for details. Tutorials begin Week 3. All tutorials are on campus **EXCEPT Group 3B (Wednesday 9-10am) which will take place online.**

Erasmus / Study Abroad students:

This is a final-year undergraduate module in English literature. It will be most suitable for students of English in their third or fourth year. If you do not fall into this category, you are welcome to contact the module leader to check if the module will be suitable for you. Please note that Modernist literature can be difficult, and you will require a good command of English to follow this module.

Students will have the opportunity to sign up for a tutorial slot at the end of the first lecture. Please ensure that you give the module leader your student ID number so that you can be added to Brightspace.

Syllabus:

This module will study the cultural and aesthetic phenomenon most often called modernism—a term, as we will immediately discover, that is far less easy to define than it may seem. The semester’s journey through one of the most significant literary movements in the twentieth century will be mapped by examples from several genres: the novel, short story, drama, and the lyric poem. Although the texts are all in English and the focus mostly on the British Isles and the United States, other important places and issues in the Anglophone world and elsewhere will also be addressed.

The module will stress careful and thoughtful reading of texts, so you can expect to use and improve your skills at close reading and informed literary analysis. We will also be paying close attention to the significance of webs of cultural, political, and historical contexts that shape and inform the literary text.

Questions that will recur throughout the term may include:

- Is modernism a style? a philosophy? a movement ?
- Is it appropriate to talk about just one “modernism,” or should we talk about “modernisms,” that happen differently in different places and times, among different groups, across different arts or sciences?
- What impact did World War One have on the development of modernism?
- What impact did industrialisation and developing technology have on the development of modernism?
- What are the differences between the terms “the modern,” “modernity,” and “modernism”?
- In what ways are gender, race, class, and sexuality represented in modernist texts?
- What experiments in genre and literary style are evident in these texts?

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this module, students will be able to:

- interpret and criticise texts through close reading;
- identify key themes in English-language literature, especially from the British Isles and the United States, from 1900 to 1945;
- locate texts within literary movements and philosophies;
- examine texts in their cultural, social, and political contexts;
- discuss issues relating to the literature of the period;
- evaluate developments in literature of the period.

Readings:

You must do the reading scheduled for lectures and tutorials before the class period when the text is to be discussed. You must bring the texts to class. For each reading assignment, make sure to look up any words you do not understand, mark passages that are unclear, and make notes of questions you would like to ask the lecturers. For poetry, read each poem at least three times: first, read it aloud; second, read slowly to make sure you understand the words and syntax; third, now that you have done the first level of work, read to hear its play of music and meaning.

Module Texts:

Module texts are available to buy at O'Mahony's bookshop on campus. A number of the core texts are also available online via the Glucksman Library at UL (see below). Short poems will be made available on Brightspace.

The Norton Anthology of English Literature Vol F: The Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries (10th Edition) ISBN 978-0393603071

Beckett, Samuel. *Endgame*. London: Faber & Faber, 2009. ISBN-13: 9780571243730

[also available online through UL Library: go to database

“Drama Online Library” in “Explore Collections”]

Hurston, Zora Neale. *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. London: Virago, 2018.

ISBN13: 9780349010335

Readings from *Norton Anthology*:

Conrad, Joseph. *Heart of Darkness* pp.71-131 **[also available as e-book, UL Library]**

Eliot, T. S. “The Love Song of J Alfred Prufrock” pp.654-657 **[also available on poetryfoundation.org open access]** and *The Waste Land* pp.659-672 **[also available in e-book through UL library: *Collected Poems 1909-1966*]**

Imagist poetry by Ezra Pound, T.E. Hulme, H.D., W.B. Yeats pp.195-197 **[also on Brightspace]**

Woolf, Virginia. *Mrs Dalloway* pp.282-392 **[also available as e-book, UL Library]**

Woolf, Virginia. ‘The Mark on the Wall’ pp.272-276 **[also on Brightspace]**

Lecture Schedule:

Week 1	Introduction: What is modernism? (SMcD)
Week 2	Joseph Conrad, <i>Heart of Darkness</i> (SMcD)
Week 3	T. S. Eliot, “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” and <i>The Waste Land</i> (NH) *close reading assignment details available this week
Week 4	Imagist poetry: Ezra Pound, T.E. Hulme, H.D., W.B. Yeats (NH)
Week 5	Virginia Woolf, <i>Mrs. Dalloway</i> (SMcD)
Week 6	Reading Week – no lectures or tutorials for this module *close reading assignment due this week
Week 7	Modernist Short Stories – Virginia Woolf, “The Mark on the Wall” and Modernist Art (NH)
Week 8	October bank holiday – no lecture
Week 9	The Harlem Renaissance (guest lecture by Dr Laura Ryan) *final essay titles available
Week 10	Zora Neale Hurston, <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> (SMcD)
Week 11	Samuel Beckett, <i>Endgame</i> (NH)
Week 12	Essay workshop (NH)

Week 13 **Final essay due this week**

	Lecture	Tutorial	Essays due
Week 1	Introduction	No tutorial	
Week 2	<i>Heart of Darkness</i>	No tutorial	
Week 3	T.S. Eliot	<i>Heart of Darkness</i>	
Week 4	Imagist Poetry	T.S. Eliot	
Week 5	<i>Mrs Dalloway</i>	Imagist Poetry	
Week 6	Reading week	Reading week	Mid-term essay
Week 7	“The Mark on the Wall”	<i>Mrs Dalloway</i>	
Week 8	No lecture (bank holiday)	“The Mark on the Wall”	
Week 9	The Harlem Renaissance	Readings tbc	
Week 10	<i>Their Eyes were Watching God</i>	<i>Their Eyes were Watching God</i>	
Week 11	<i>Endgame</i>	<i>Endgame</i>	
Week 12	Essay workshop	Essay workshop	
Week 13	No lecture	No tutorials	Final essay

Tutorial Schedule:

Tutorials begin in Week 3 and will discuss the text covered in the previous week’s lecture. Please check Brightspace announcements / your UL email for details of specific passages or questions to prepare for tutorial discussion. **You are expected to read the text in advance of the tutorial and to bring a copy to class.**

Please note:

Attendance/ participation in your weekly tutorial is mandatory and attendance will be taken. If you cannot attend/ participate in your tutorial, please contact your tutor as soon as possible; absences will only be excused in exceptional circumstances. You are expected to attend the tutorial assigned to you on your timetable; no changing will be allowed.

Assessment:

40% Close reading assignment

Close reading assignment of 1,400 – 1,600 words due **Monday 16th October (Week 6), by 17.00**. Students will be given a choice of topics. Essays should be submitted via Brightspace. Late papers will not be accepted unless students have been given permission ahead of the deadline for an extension. Permission will not be granted except for serious reasons presented ahead of time (computer problems do not fall into this category) and supported by documentation.

50% Final Essay

Final essay of 2,000 words (+ or – 10%) due on **Friday 8th December (week 13), by 17.00**. Students will be given a choice of essay topics. Essays should be submitted via Brightspace. Late papers will not be accepted unless students have been given permission ahead of the deadline for an extension. Permission will not be granted except for serious reasons presented ahead of time (computer problems do not fall into this category) and supported by documentation.

10% Tutorial grade

Based on attendance and active engagement in tutorials.

Essay guidelines:

- Essays should be double-spaced and properly referenced using MLA style, with all sources cited in the text and listed in the works cited section at the end.
- Plagiarism will not be tolerated (see below).
- Essays must be submitted electronically through Turnitin.com. Hard copies are not required.
- Further guidelines will be available on SULIS when the essay titles are released.

Elements under general consideration during assessment of student work:

- Relevance of material in the essay to the title of the assignment (the question).
- Relevance to the content of the course.
- Understanding of topics under discussion.
- Knowledge and understanding of relevant readings and sources.
- Critical discussion of relevant readings.
- Clarity and depth in the analysis of theory and topics under discussion.
- Coherence of argument.
- Clarity and relevance of introduction and conclusion.
- Clarity and precision of expression and presentation.
- Use of appropriate and consistent referencing and citation conventions.
- Clarity of writing including grammar, punctuation, spelling and sentence construction.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Plagiarism in its simplest form is the attempt to present someone else's ideas or arguments as your own. Incidents of plagiarism in individual assessments will be awarded zero marks and can lead to the award of an F for the whole module. See also the University Code of Conduct.

Plagiarism includes:

- Reproducing sections of a book or article and submitting these as your own.
- Cutting and pasting material from the internet and submitting these as your own ideas or critical assessments.
- Passing off someone else's work as your own.
- Submitting an assignment or parts of an assignment for more than one class.
- Paraphrasing, imitating or rewriting in your own words the ideas or concepts of another author without properly citing your sources.

AI:

Under no circumstances can students use any form of artificial intelligence or machine learning to produce any part of their assessments for this module. Any use of AI (eg ChatGPT) for any part of an assessment will result in an automatic fail for the assessment. See the English Student Handbook for further information.

Essay Feedback:

Feedback on submitted work will be delivered online. Feedback on the close reading assignment will be made available before the final essay is due.

Repeats:

The repeat assignment for this module consists of two essays of 1,800 words each. Students who have been awarded Fs must clear this grade by passing the re-sit in the Autumn. Students who have been awarded a D1 or D2 may have the right to a re-sit depending on their overall academic standing. These re-sit grades are capped at C3. Students who have applied for an I grade on the grounds of ill health or personal circumstance have the right to a re-sit and their grades are not capped.

University Grading Scale:

Grade	Standard	QPV
A1	First honours	4.00
A2	First honours	3.60
B1	Honours 2.1	3.20
B2	Honours 2.1	3.00
B3	Honours 2.2	2.80
C1	Honours 2.2	2.60
C2	Third honours	2.40
C3	Third honours	2.00
D1	Compensating fail	1.60
D2	Compensating fail	1.20
F	Fail	0.00
NG	Fail	0.00

Disability Support Services:

The University of Limerick is committed to providing equal access to learning opportunities for students with documented disabilities. To ensure reasonable accommodations are in place during your programme of study please contact Disability Support Services to engage in a confidential conversation about the process for requesting reasonable accommodations in the classroom, exams, and clinical settings. Reasonable accommodations are not provided retrospectively. Students are encouraged to register with Disability Support Services as early as possible. The University of Limerick encourages students to access all resources available through Disability Support Services for consistent support and access to their programmes. More information can be found online at [Disability Support Services](#). Contact can also be made with the office by phone on 061 213478 or by email at disabilityservices@ul.ie.

Secondary Reading:

- Bradbury, Malcolm and James McFarlane, eds. *Modernism 1890-1930*. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1970.
- Bradshaw, David, ed. *A Concise Companion to Modernism*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2003.
- Bradshaw, David, 'The Novel in the 1920s', *The Penguin History of Literature: The Twentieth Century*, ed. Martin Dodsworth. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1994, 195-224.
- Bradshaw, David, and Kevin J.H. Dettmar, eds. *A Companion to Modernist Literature and Culture*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2006.
- Brooker, Peter, and Andrew Thacker, eds. *Geographies of Modernism*. London: Routledge, 2005.
- Childs, Peter. *Modernism*. London: Routledge, 2016.
- Duffy, Enda. *The Speed Handbook: Velocity, Pleasure, Modernism*. Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2009.
- Ellmann, Richard and Charles Feidelson, eds. *The Modern Tradition: Backgrounds of Modern Literature*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1965.
- Felski, Rita. *The Gender of Modernity*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1995.
- Friedman, Susan Stanford. "Periodizing Modernism: Postcolonial Modernities and the Space/Time Borders of Modernist Studies." *Modernism/modernity* 13 (2006): 425–43.
- Froula, Christine. *Virginia Woolf and the Bloomsbury Avant-Garde: War, Civilization, Modernity*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2005.
- Henke, Suzette and David Eberly, eds. *Virginia Woolf and Trauma: Embodied Texts*. New York: Pace University Press, 2007.
- Hewitt, Douglas John. *English Fiction of the Early Modern Period 1890-1940*. New York: Longman, 1988.
- Horne, Philip, 'The Novel to 1914', *The Penguin History of Literature: The Twentieth Century*, ed. Martin Dodsworth. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1994, 65-108.
- James, David. *Modernist Futures: Innovation and Inheritance in the Contemporary Novel*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012.
- Jones, Susan. *Literature, Modernism, and Dance*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.
- Levenson, Michael, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Modernism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999.
- Lewis, Pericles. *The Cambridge Introduction to Modernism*. Cambridge University Press, 2007.
- Nicholls, Peter. *Modernisms: A Literary Guide*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1995.
- Mao, Douglas, and Rebecca L. Walkowitz, eds. *Bad Modernisms*. Durham, NC, and London: Duke University Press, 2006.
- North, Michael. *The Dialect of Modernism: Race, Language & Twentieth-Century Literature*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.
- . *Reading 1922: A Return to the Scene of the Modern*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001.

- Perkins, David. *A History of Modern Poetry: Modernism and After*. Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press, 1987.
- Rabate, Jean Michel. *1913: The Cradle of Modernism*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2007.
- Rainey, Lawrence. *Modernisms: An Anthology*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2006.
- Ricks, Christopher. *T.S. Eliot and Prejudice*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1988.
- Scott, Bonnie Kime. *Refiguring Modernism*. 2 vols. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1995.
- Singal, Daniel Joseph. "Towards a Definition of American Modernism." *American Quarterly* 39 (1987), 7-26.
- Vendler, Helen. *Poems, Poets, Poetry: An Introduction and Anthology*. New York: Bedford-St. Martin's, 2001.
- Williams, Raymond. *The Politics of Modernism: Against the New Conformists*. London: Verso, 2007.
- Wilson, Edmund. *Axel's Castle: A Study in the Imaginative Literature of 1870-1930*. London: Fontana, 1971.