

ENGL XXXX (TBD): London Modernisms 1915-1925; Parallels and Prospects 2015-2025 (4 credits)

Course Description:

Matthew Arnold, a very influential and controversial English poet and essayist of the 19th century, presented in 1857 the theory that “intellectual deliverance is the peculiar demand of those ages which are called modern; and those nations are said to be imbued with the modern spirit most eminently in which the demand for such a deliverance has been made with most zeal, and satisfied with most completeness.”

British literary modernism is associated with London and the post-war period of 1915-1925, and particularly with the “annus mirabilis” of 1922, when many new literary works appeared in what was perceived as a new, “modern” literary style. But just as Arnold located “the modern spirit” across different times from the classical to his contemporary, this course will focus on the nature of literary modernism in the early 20th century and connect it to modernism in the early 21st century, our contemporary. Literary modernism a century ago developed in the context of social conditions that resemble our own: migrations and immigrations; tensions between Global and Local orientations; consciousness of society under siege by anarchy; and the increasing influence of technology. For the poet T. S. Eliot, the accomplishment of the writer James Joyce as “giving a shape and a significance to the immense panorama of futility and anarchy which is contemporary history.” We will explore how that shape was achieved in 1915-1925 and how that is attempted in London today.

London was an intellectual, cultural, and literary center in the early 20th century, and it is that today. This course will draw on the Fordham University focus for study abroad in London as “the city as text” by visiting both historical locations in the city and the region and also contemporary centers of cultural activity including significant sites, museums, theaters, and music venues. Our treatment of modernism will be interdisciplinary, particularly drawing on history and art history, and it will include British guest lecturers most qualified in political and visual histories through to the present.

Requirements for the course will include joining group excursions on class time and independent ones outside class time; participation in discussions in an active classroom; reports on outside events; and presentations on individual research projects. This class will meet in the city of London and it will bring London the city into our classroom.

Course Learning Outcomes:

This course will present a general chronology of notable modern British literature works in prose, poetry, and drama in 1915-1925 and both before and after; students will learn this chronology and understand the significance and distinctive characteristics of literary works in it; students will learn interdisciplinary methods through visiting faculty members; students will learn the actual and the cultural geography of modern and contemporary London through visits

to its sites, cultural institutions, and performing arts venues; students will use and improve verbal and written communication skills through presentations and writing assignments.

Course Requirements and Assessment:

1. Active oral class participation and excursions [20%]: throughout the term.
2. Two short class report presentations [15%]: Scheduled throughout the semester
3. One short (3 pp.) essay of one-month assessment of the course [15%]: Week 4.
4. In-Class Mid-term Examination in Class [15%]: Week 6.
5. One review (3 pp.) of a play, other performance, or exhibition of your choice related to the course [15%]: Due by Week 10.
6. One research report (5-10 pp.), topics to be developed in class, verbal summary in class and final written paper [20%]: Final Presentations and Paper Week 14.

Attendance:

Fordham University Undergraduate Handbook: "Students are expected to attend every class of every course for which they are registered. Each class meeting has its own dynamics and provides a unique opportunity for learning.

Academic Integrity Policy:

"A University, by its nature, strives to foster and recognize originality of thought, which can be recognized only when people produce work that is theirs alone and properly acknowledge information and ideas that are obtained from the work of others. It is therefore important that students must maintain the highest standards with regard to honesty, effort, and performance."

Full information on infractions of academic integrity including punishments up to and including dismissal from Fordham University can be found at:

http://www.fordham.edu/info/25380/undergraduate_academic_integrity_policy

Course Syllabus:

Week 1: Overview; Course Web Site; Course Resources
London Literary and Cultural Geography, Timeline
Summer Reading: Matthew Arnold, "On the Modern Element in Literature"
(1857)

Summer Reading: Joseph Conrad, The Secret Agent (1907)

- Week 2: Modernism of Social Content: Prose Fiction
Joseph Conrad, The Secret Agent (1907)
Events Listings:
Joseph Conrad Society UK: <http://www.josephconradsociety.org/>
City as Text Group Excursion: Excursion: Royal Museum Greenwich
- Week 3: Modernism of Social Content:
Joseph Conrad, The Secret Agent (1907)
Virginia Woolf, "Joseph Conrad" (1914)
Contemporary Writers: V. S. Naipaul, "Conrad's Darkness" (1974)
City as Text Excursion Reports
- Week 4: Modernism of Social Content: Drama
Bernard Shaw, Pygmalion (1914)
Bernard Shaw, The Quintessence of Ibsenism (1891, 1917 Preface)
Events Listings: The Shaw Society of UK

City as Text Excursion: Production of Contemporary Play TBD

Due: One short (3 pp.) essay of one-month assessment of the course
- Week 5: Social Modernism: Cultural History
Visitor George Regkoukos, Historian: War Years and the Roaring 20s (Science, Medicine and Technology)
Maynard Keynes, "The Economic Consequences of Peace" (1920)(excerpt)
Bertrand Russell, "What I Believe" (1925)
City as Text Excursion Reports
- Week 6: Modernism of New Form: Prose Fiction
James Joyce, Ulysses (1922) (excerpts)
T. S. Eliot, "Ulysses, Order, and Myth" (1923)
Contemporary Writers: Irish Writers in London

Mid-term Examination in Class
- Week 7: Liberal Arts Program Excursion Week: Readings TBD
Midterm Examination
- Week 8: Modernism of New Form: Visual Arts and Architecture
Visitor: Geoff Snell, Art Historian: A New Century; Twentieth Century Art
Roger Fry, Selected Texts
Excursions: Courtauld Gallery

- Week 9: Modernism of New Form: Poetry
 T. S. Eliot, Prufrock and Other Poems (1919)
 T. S. Eliot, The Waste Land (1922)
 Ezra Pound, Selected Texts
 Contemporary Writers:
 Events Listings:
 T. S. Eliot Society of UK: <http://www.eliotociety.org.uk/>
- Week 10: Modernism of New Form: Drama
 W. B. Yeats, “The People’s Theatre” (1919)
 W. B. Yeats, “At the Hawk’s Well” (1914)
 T. S. Eliot, “The Cocktail Party” (1949)
 Contemporary Writers: Caryl Churchill, Harold Pinter, Lucy Kirkwood
 Events Listings:
 London Fringe Theatre
- Due: Final date for submission of one review (3 pp.) of a play, other performance, or exhibition of your choice related to the course
- Week 11: The Bloomsbury Group
 City as Text Group Excursion: Bloomsbury Walking Tour
 Electronic Resources:
 Tate Museum Bloomsbury Resources:
<http://www.tate.org.uk/learn/online-resources/bloomsbury-group>
- Week 12: End of Decade: 1925
 Virginia Woolf, Mrs Dalloway (1925)
 City as Text Excursions Reports
 Events Listings:
 Virginia Woolf Society of UK: <http://www.virginiawoolfsociety.co.uk/>
- Week 13: End of Decade: 1925
 Virginia Woolf, Mrs Dalloway (1925)
 Virginia Woolf, The London Scene (essays 1931-1932)
 Contemporary Writers: Zadie Smith, “Northwest London Blues” (2012)
- Week 14: Presentations and Summaries One research report (5-10 pp) verbal summary in class and final written paper
 Matthew Arnold, “On the Modern Element in Literature” (1857)

Course Resources:

Required book texts:

Joseph Conrad, The Secret Agent

Bernard Shaw, Pygmalion
T. S. Eliot, Selected Poems
Virginia Woolf, Mrs Dalloway

Other texts will be provided electronically; additional titles may be required for individual research projects.

Course Electronic Resources:

Joseph Conrad:

The Secret Agent archive: <https://archive.org/details/secretagentasimp031220mbp>

Joseph Conrad Society UK: <http://www.josephconradsociety.org/>

Bernard Shaw:

Pygmalion etext: <http://www.bartleby.com/138/>

James Joyce:

T. S. Eliot, "Ulysses, Order, and Myth": <https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/review-of-ulysses-by-t-s-eliot-from-the-dial>

Virginia Woolf on Ulysses, The Modernism Lab, Yale:
https://modernism.research.yale.edu/wiki/index.php?title=Woolf%27s_Reading_of_Joyce%27s_Ulysses,_1918-1920&oldid=6054&printable=yes

Links from the James Joyce Society: <http://joycesociety.org/links.html>

The Joyce Project Ulysses online: <http://cas.umt.edu/english/joyce/#>

T. S. Eliot:

Exploring The Waste Land:
<http://world.std.com/%7Eraparker/exploring/thewasteland/explore.html>

The Waste Land Hypertext: <http://eliotswasteland.tripod.com/>

Eliot, "Tradition and the Individual Talent": <http://www.bartleby.com/200/sw4.html>

T. S. Eliot Society of UK: <http://www.eliotociety.org.uk/>

Virginia Woolf:

Mrs Dalloway Electronic Text: <https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/w/woolf/virginia/w91md/>

Mrs Dalloway's London Mapping Project:

https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1mRbzQlldTLyIoty-9AEnjh6JTog&hl=en_US&ll=51.5127768755441%2C-0.14119499999992513&z=13

Mrs Dalloway Mapping Project: <http://mrsdallowaymappingproject.weebly.com/>

Virginia Woolf Society of Great Britain: <http://www.virginiawoolfsociety.co.uk/>

Tate Museum Bloomsbury Resources:

<http://www.tate.org.uk/learn/online-resources/bloomsbury-group>

Woolf, "Modern Fiction": <https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/w/woolf/virginia/w91c/chapter13.html>

Related Texts and General Sources:

Oxford English Literature Timeline:

<http://www.oxfordreference.com/view/10.1093/acref/9780191737053.timeline.0001>

Roger Fry, Vision and Design:

<https://archive.org/stream/visiondesign00fryr#page/n11/mode/2up>

Keynes, "Economic Consequences of Peace" excerpts:

<http://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1920keynes.html>