Modernisms: Making it New

Module convenor: Dr Philip Coleman
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Lecturers: Dr Philip Coleman, Prof Stephen Matterson, Prof Eve Patten, Dr Sam Slote, Dr Tom Walker
ECTS weighting: 5
Year: SF
Term taught: Hilary Term
Assessment: Essay

Learning Outcomes:
On successful completion of this module, students will:

- be familiar with a representative range of modernist authors from a variety of contexts and working in various genres and modes
- be able to recognise and articulate different conceptualisations literary modernism from the early twentieth century to the present
- be able to articulate the differences and interrelationships between the key figures of literary modernism
- be familiar with the debates regarding the multiple possible ways of defining literary modernisms
- have a clear sense of how literary modernisms fit in within the history of English (and European) literature

Module Outline:
1  Making it New: Introducing Modernisms (PC)
   A package of introductory material will be provided on Blackboard, with excerpts from works by Charles Baudelaire, Sigmund Freud, Oswald Spengler, Laura Riding, Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, Wyndham Lewis, Virginia Woolf, T.S. Eliot, Marjorie Perloff, and others.
2  Joseph Conrad, Heart of Darkness (1899) (SM)
The Norton Critical Edition of Conrad’s text is particularly recommended, but the novel is also available online here:


3 Ezra Pound, *Hugh Selwyn Mauberley* (1920) (TW)


4 Jean Rhys, *Voyage in the Dark* (1934) (EP)


6 James Joyce, *The Little Review ‘Ulysses’, chapters 1-8, 10, 13* (SS)


7 Reading Week

8 Mina Loy, *Songs to Joannes* (1917) (PC)


9 Jean Toomer, *Cane* (1923) (PC)


10 Virginia Woolf, *To the Lighthouse* (1927) (EP)
Additional Reading: Woolf, ‘Modern Fiction’ (1921), ‘The Cinema’ (1926) and ‘A Sketch of the Past’ (1939); excerpts from Henri Bergson, Time and Free Will (1889) and Wyndham Lewis, Time and Western Man (1927) available on Blackboard. The lecture will also refer other novels including Mrs Dalloway (1925) and The Waves (1931). A useful online resource for the manuscript evolution and context of To the Lighthouse can be found at www.woolfonline.com

William Faulkner, As I Lay Dying (1930) (SM)
The Norton Critical Edition of As I Lay Dying is particularly recommended.

Additional Reading: The Odyssey, Book XI (The Kingdom of the Dead); Richard Gray, ‘A Southern Carnival.’

W.B. Yeats, The Tower (1928) (TW)

Additional Reading: selections from The Wind Among the Reeds (1899), Responsibilities (1914), New Poems (1938), and ‘Certain Noble Plays of Japan’ (1916) and A Vision (1925); Ezra Pound, ‘The Later Yeats’ (1914); Samuel Beckett, extracts from Murphy (1938); W.H. Auden, ‘In Memory of W.B. Yeats.

Primary Texts:
Although various editions may be available, students are encouraged to obtain the following primary texts:

Mina Loy, ‘Songs to Joannes’ in The Lost Lunar Baedeker, ed. Roger L. Conover (Carcanet, 1997). A reliable online version of Loy’s text is available online here:
https://oncomouse.github.io/loy/songs.html
Ezra Pound, Selected Poems and Translations, ed Richard Sieburth (Faber and Faber, 2010)
Jean Rhys, Voyage in the Dark (1934)
Virgina Woolf, To the Lighthouse (Oxford World’s Classics, 2008)
Suggested Secondary Reading:


---------------------, *A Homemade World* (1977)


Laura Marcus and Peter Nicholls, eds., *The Cambridge History of Twentieth-Century English Literature* (2009)


---------------------, *Reading 1922: A Return to the Scene of the Modern* (1999)


