

Professor Eve Patten epatten@tcd.ie

Module description

This option covers Virginia Woolf's response, in fiction, essays, journalism, diaries and correspondence, to war, violence and conflict in the first half of the twentieth century, with reference to the First World War, the Spanish Civil War and the rise of authoritarian regimes in the lead-up to the Second World War. We shall discuss in this context, the evolution of Woolf's modernist aesthetic; the significance of her critical writing; her representations of violence, national and international politics, fascism and patriarchy; and her treatment of sexuality and changing gender roles. The set text texts will be accompanied by directed critical reading [via Blackboard] and a range of relevant film extracts and visual illustrations. Students taking this option will be expected to read widely across the full range of Woolf's writing.

Module texts

Set texts include: a selection of Woolf's early essays and stories; *Jacob's Room* (1922); *Mrs Dalloway* (1925); *To the Lighthouse* (1927); *The Years* (1937); 'Three Guineas' (1938); 'Thoughts of Peace in an Air Raid' (1940); *Between the Acts* (1941)

Preliminary critical bibliography

Adkins, P, and Derek Ryan (eds), *Virginia Woolf, Europe and Peace*, vol 2 (2020)
Berman, Jessica, *Modernist Fiction, Cosmopolitanism, and the Politics of Community* (2001)
Cole, Sarah, *At the Violet Hour: Modernism and Violence* (2012)
Cuddy-Keane, Melba, *Virginia Woolf, the Intellectual & Public Sphere* (2003)
Feigel, Lara, *The Love-Charm of Bombs: Restless Lives in Second World War* (2013)
Froula, Christine, *Virginia Woolf and the Bloomsbury Avant Garde* (2005)
Hussey, Mark (ed), *Virginia Woolf and War: Fiction, Reality, Myth* (1991)
Mackay, Marina, *Modernism and World War Two* (2007)
“ “ *Modernism, War and Violence* (2017)
Pawlowski, Merry M (ed), *Virginia Woolf and Fascism* (2001)

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this module students will be able to:

- comment on the historical and political contexts of Woolf's major works
- evaluate the main aesthetic and formal developments of Woolf's writing in this period
- assess the evolution of literary modernism, with specific reference to Woolf's life, work and community
- engage with relevant critical interventions and assessments
- discuss and evaluate the representation of war in twentieth-century fictional writing

Assessment is by 5 - 6000 word essay (100%)