

This module explores key texts and contexts of the modernist period (c.1890-1940). It considers modernism as an international and multi-dimensional phenomenon ranging across a variety of movements, genres, discourses, and modes of representation. The module centres on the detailed study of literary texts, but it also explores intellectual cross-currents and interactions between literature, film, visual culture, and music. It studies the relationship between modernism in the arts and the broader condition of modernity, exploring such topics as technology, the metropolis, feminism, the body, psychoanalysis, surrealism and irrationality. Students will read literary texts alongside manifestos and other source documents and will be encouraged to consider the development of a modernist aesthetic of shock, fragmentation, discontinuity and montage in both formal and cultural terms. The module will conclude by looking at modernism's afterlife and considering the meaning of the concept 'postmodernism'.

**Texts for purchase**

James Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, ed. Jeri Johnson ([1916] Oxford, 2008) ISBN: 978-0199536443

Franz Kafka, *Selected Stories*, trans. and ed. Stanley Corngold (Norton, 2006) ISBN: 978-0393924794\*

D.H. Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, ed. David Trotter ([1913] Oxford, 1995) ISBN: 978-0199538881

Flann O'Brien, *At Swim-Two-Birds* ([1939] Penguin, 2000) ISBN: 978-0141182681

Nathanael West, *The Day of the Locust* ([1939] Penguin, 2006) ISBN: 978-0141023656

Virginia Woolf, *Mrs Dalloway*, ed. Elaine Showalter ([1925] Penguin, 1992) ISBN: 978-0141182490

**\* - added to this listing on 2 August 2011**

Additional texts for required reading will be provided in a Module Reader, available for purchase at the beginning of semester.

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