



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Historical Approach 3: Modernism and Beyond - 44300

Last update 11-02-2022

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: English

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: English

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Ruben Borg

Coordinator Email: ruben.borg@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Wednesday 14:30

Teaching Staff:

Prof Ruben Borg

Course/Module description:

The course consists of one, semester-long 2-hour weekly discussion of texts representative of major trends in twentieth-century English modernism. These trends are examined through a close analysis of the texts in relation to their historical, cultural and theoretical contexts.

Course/Module aims:

1. To understand Modernism as a formal literary movement through examining its major authors and manifestos.
2. To expose students to the specificity of Modernist literary aesthetics.
3. To explore subsidiary movements within Modernism.
4. To discuss the work of leading modernists: Joseph Conrad, Virginia Woolf, T.S. Eliot, among others.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

1. To identify the characteristics of Modernism as a formal literary movement through examining its inception in the early twentieth century.
2. To categorise and explicate poetic, stylistic and aesthetic strategies associated with Modernism
3. To demonstrate familiarity with selected writings of major Modernists writing in English in the early twentieth-century: including W.B. Yeats, Joseph Conrad, Virginia Woolf and T.S. Eliot.
5. To evaluate critically social and political factors that influence Modernist literary practice.
6. To identify late modernist or postmodernist features of late twentieth-century writing.

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lecture and class discussion (with active participation)

Course/Module Content:

— Introduction: Salient Themes and Critical Clichés
Poetry

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- T.S. Eliot, *The Waste Land* (with “Ulysses, Order and Myth”)
 - W.B. Yeats, “The Second Coming”
 - W.B. Yeats, “Leda and the Swan”
 - H.D., “Leda”
 - Mina Loy, “On Third Avenue”
 - Allen Ginsberg, *Howl*

Prose

- Joseph Conrad, **The Secret Agent** (Not discussed in class)
- Virginia Woolf, “Mrs Dalloway in Bond Street” (with excerpts from “Modern Fiction” & “Mr Bennett and Mrs Brown”)
- James Joyce, “The Dead”
- James Joyce, “Calypso” from **Ulysses**
- Muriel Spark, **The Comforters** (Not discussed in class)
- Samuel Beckett, **Not I**
- Conclusion [Periodising Modernism]

For a full breakdown of weekly readings see the Moodle page.

Required Reading:

Poetry

- T.S. Eliot, “Ulysses, Order and Myth”
- T.S. Eliot, *The Waste Land*
- W.B. Yeats, “The Second Coming”
- W.B. Yeats, “Leda and the Swan”
- H.D., “Leda”
- Mina Loy, “On Third Avenue”
- Allen Ginsberg, *Howl*

Prose

- Samuel Beckett, **Not I**
- Joseph Conrad, *The Secret Agent*
- James Joyce, “The Dead”
- James Joyce, “Calypso” from **Ulysses**
- Muriel Spark, **The Comforters**
- Virginia Woolf, “Mrs Dalloway in Bond Street”
- Virginia Woolf, “Modern Fiction”
- Virginia Woolf, “Mr Bennett and Mrs Brown”
- Virginia Woolf, “Reality and the Movies”

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 0 %

Project work 50 %

Assignments 40 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 10 %

Discussion: Forum

Additional information:

Assignments (amounting to 40% of the grade) will consist of at least two exercises: a brief written text, and an interview integrating different aspects of the course at the end of the year.