IPHS 215: MODERNISM & ITS CRITICS
Professor Elkins
Fall Semester, 2011

Texts
Bradley, *Surrealism*  
Breton, *Manifestos of Surrealism*  
Cahoone, ed. *From Modernism to Postmodernism*  
Dostoyevsky, *Notes from the Underground*  
Gropius, *The New Architecture and the Bauhaus*  
Harvey, *The Condition of Postmodernity*  
Joyce, *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*  
Kafka, *The Trial*  
Kolocotroni et al., ed. *Modernism*  
Le Corbusier, *The City of Tomorrow*  
Nietzsche, *The Use and Abuse of History*  
Sartre, *Existentialism and Human Emotions*  
Sartre, *No Exit and Three Other Plays*  
Stein, *Picasso*  
Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*

Films (in viewing order)
*Rashomon*
*Andalusian Dog (Un Chien Andalou)*
*Triumph of the Will*
*Mulholland Drive*

Requirements
Annotated Bibliography: 20% 8 pages minimum, final draft to contain a conclusion
Class participation: 25% Grade drops after 3 absences
Weekly Commentary 25% 250 words per week contributed to MOODLE—Grade drops with each missed posting
Mid-term and Final 20% In-class writing—Identification of Passages
Leading of Class discussion 5%
Contribution to group WIKI 5% Editing of our definition of “Modernism”—at least one significant edit/contribution required

Class Description:
This course will examine Modernism as an historical phenomenon that encompasses many diverse disciplines, including literature, philosophy, political discourse, dance, music, film, art and architecture. We will ask questions like the following: What constitutes the modern experience? How is it different from a pre-modern experience? What relationship does it have to the past and, more specifically, to the western tradition as seen in IPHS 113:114? Are there similarities across disciplines, or does each field constitute modernity differently? Finally, is postmodernism a new movement or merely a further development of the principles of Modernism?

The grade for this class will be determined by a number of different projects, each of which emphasizes a different skill. The annotated bibliography will require preliminary research on a chosen research topic, the fruition of which will be shared orally with the class. The final conclusion will point to further questions or a unique insight. The class participation grade will be based on both attendance and your contributions to class discussion; the grade will drop after one absence. You will focus on writing skills by contributing a minimum of 250 words on a weekly basis to the online MOODLE discussion. You will alternate between offering questions before class or reflections after the class, with the groups alternating weekly. Groups will be listed on MOODLE, and the site will also show which group must write before class. Entries are due the evening before the next class, whether you are posting before or after class. Two exams
will test critical thinking by requiring you to identify passages/images/music as exemplifying key modernist traits. Finally, you will be contributing to our WIKI definition of Modernism.

**Please Note**
If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your ability to carry out assigned course work, I would urge you to contact the Office of Disability Services at 5453 and speak with the Coordinator of Disability Services, Erin Salva (salva@kenyon.edu). They are here to help you. All information and documentation of disability is confidential.

**PART ONE—ART AND THE CITY: THE BIRTH OF MODERNISM**

**AUG. 26**  
**INTRODUCTION**

**AUG. 29**  
**BAUDELAIRE**
*Modernism*, Nordau, Simmel, (I, a, 7&15), Flaubert (Ib 3), Courbet (II a 1)  
*From Modernism to Postmodernism (FMP)*, Baudelaire, (II, 11)  
Group A post before class

**AUG. 31**  
**BAUDELAIRE**  
(Moodle)

**SEP. 2**  
**SCIENCE**  
*FMP*, Weber, Wittgenstein, Husserl (II 16,18,20)  
Group B post after class

**SEP. 5**  
**DOSTOIEVSKY**  
*Dostoievsky, Notes from the Underground* (3-39)  
Group B post before class

**SEP. 7**  
**DOSTOIEVSKY**  
Finish (through 91)  
Group A due after class

**SEP. 9**  
**NIETZSCHE**  
*FMP*, II, 13.  
Group A due before class

**SEP. 12**  
**NIETZSCHE**  
*Nietzsche, The Use and Abuse of History*
SEP. 14  **NIETZSCHE & JOYCE**  
Nietzsche, *The Use and Abuse of History*  
Begin Joyce  
Group B due after class  

**PART TWO—MODERNIST NARRATIVES**

SEP. 16  **JOYCE**  
Continue Joyce  
Group B before class  

SEP. 19  **JOYCE**  
Finish Joyce  

SEP. 21  **LANGUAGE**  
*Modernism*, Stein (IIIa27)  
*FMP*, Saussure (II, 15)  
Group A due after class  

SEP. 23  **KAFKA**  
Kafka, *The Trial* (1-73)  
Group A due before class  

SEP. 26  **FILM -- RASHOMON**  
Watch over weekend  
Read Kafka, 74-150  

SEP. 28  **KAFKA**  
Kafka, 150—229  
Group B due after class  

SEP. 30  **WOOLF**  
Woolf, *To The Lighthouse*  
Group B due before class  

**PART THREE—BEYOND LITERATURE**

OCT. 3  **DANCE**  
Films in Class  
Homework: Continue Reading Woolf
OCT. 5  **WOOLF**  
*Woolf, To The Lighthouse*  
Group A due after class

OCT. 7  **READING DAY – N0 CLASS**

OCT. 10  **MUSIC**  
*Albright* (Moodle)  
*Lehrer* (Moodle)  
*Rite of Spring* (in class)  
Group A due before class  
Group B due after class

OCT. 12  **REVIEW DAY**

OCT. 14  **MIDTERM EXAM**

OCT. 17  **MODERN ART**  
*Modernism*, MacCarthy, Kandinsky (IIa, 3 & lib)  
Images (in class)  
Group B due before class

OCT. 19  **STEIN & PICASSO**  
*Stein, Picasso*  
Group A due after class

OCT. 21  **ARCHITECTURE**  
*Gropius, The New Architecture*  
Group A due before class

OCT. 24  **ARCHITECTURE**  
*Le Corbusier, The City of Tomorrow*  
Group B due after class

OCT. 26  **REVIEW DATE**

PART FOUR—ETHICS, POLITICS AND THE AVANT-GARDE

OCT. 28  **MANIFESTOS**  
*Marinetti, Futurist Manifestos*, “Dada Manifestos” (Moodle)  
Group B due before class
OCT. 31  MANIFESTOS  
Breton, *Manifestos of Surrealism*, pp. 2-47  
*Modernism*, Mina Loy, IIb, 2

NOV. 2  SURREALISM  
Bradley, *Surrealism*  
Film – *Andalusian Dog*  
Group A due after class

NOV. 4  POLITICS  
Weber, *The Spirit of Capitalism* (Moodle)  
Group A due before class

NOV. 7  POLITICS  
Weber, *Politics as a Vocation*  
Hitler, *Mein Kampf*, excerpt (Moodle)

NOV. 9  WWII  
*FMP* Horkheimer and Adorno (II, 21)  
Film: *Triumph of the Will* (excerpt in class)  
Group B due after class

NOV. 11  EXISTENTIALISM  
Sartre, *No Exit*  
Group B due before class

NOV. 14  RESEARCH DAY—Meet in Library, *bring your laptop if you have one*  
Read *The Flies*

PART FIVE—BEYOND MODERNISM

NOV. 16  EXISTENTIALISM  
Sartre, *Existentialism and Human Emotions*  
Group A due after class

ARRANGE INDIVIDUAL APPTS TO DISCUSS RESEARCH TOPIC THIS WEEK

NOV. 18  REVIEW DATE/SHARE TOPICS
THANKSGIVING BREAK
WATCH MULHOLLAND DRIVE
THINK ABOUT RESEARCH PROJECT

NOV. 28  POSTMODERNISM
    Mulholland Drive
    Group A due before class

NOV. 30  RESEARCH CLASS/POSTMODERNISM
    Harvey, *The Condition of Postmodernity*, pp. 1-65

DEC. 2   RESEARCH CLASS/POSTMODERNISM
    Borges and Dante (Moodle)
    Group B due after class

DEC. 5   REVIEW DATE
    Bring Research Assignment to Class—Topic, Question, and Sources List

DEC. 7   REVIEW DATE
    Bring one completed entry

DEC. 13  FINAL EXAM — 8:30 AM

DEC. 16  RESEARCH DUE (via Email is fine)

MOODLE GROUP: ______________________

CLASS DISCUSSION DATE: ___________