

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

Texts

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

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 (salvae@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

Dostoevsky, 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 – NO 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 & Iib)**
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: _____