Introduction to Modernism (10 credits/studiepoeng)
ENG 222
Autumn 2017

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This course will examine the joint impulse towards formal experimentation and cultural revolution in a selection of modernist literature in English. How did modernism (as a movement of artistic and cultural renewal) respond to modernity (broader trends in modern society, politics, culture, religious orientation, technology and thought)? What ideas motivated the search for new literary forms? How do modernist texts challenge generic conventions and expectations? Are there elements of continuity as well as of rupture at play in literary modernism? We will be reading a representative selection of poetry and fiction from a recognizable modernist core within English literature, while also trying to keep an open mind to a plural conception of modernisms.

Critical Texts


Primary Texts

Modernist poems (shorter poems available online – click titles for links):

W. H. Auden, “In Memory of W. B. Yeats” (1940).
T. E. Hulme, “Above the Dock” (1912).
Ezra Pound, “In a Station of the Metro” (1913).

Modernist novels:

Virginia Wolf, To the Lighthouse (1927). Edition: Oxford World Classics, ed. David Bradshaw (Please read Bradshaw's introduction). (Available at Akademika bookstore.)
COURSE SCHEDULE:

Weeks 34-40, 42-46.
Time: Mondays, 10:15-12:00.
Place: DR Sem.rom F.

School Exam (4 hours):
Week 48.
Time: Monday, 27 November, 9:00-13:00.
Place:

Detailed schedule:

Session 1 / Week 34:
Introduction to the course. Modernity and modernism.
Reading: Lewis (Preface and Introduction)

Session 2 / Week 35:
On the role of poetry in the modern world.
Reading:
- Primary: Yeats, Auden.
- Critical: Lewis (Chapter 7)

Session 3 / Week 36:
Imagism
Reading:
- Primary: Hulme, Pound, H.D.
- Critical: Lewis (pp. 56-62 + Chapter 3), Beasley.

Session 4 / Week 37:
A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man (I)
Reading:
- Primary: Joyce, Portrait.
- Critical: Lothe (pp. 17-27, 32-48), Lewis (Chapter 5).

Session 5 / Week 38:
A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man (II)
Reading:
- Primary: Joyce, Portrait.
- Critical: Lothe (pp. 17-27, 32-48), Lewis (Chapter 5).

Session 6 / Week 39:
Modernist long poem: The Waste Land (I)
Reading:
- Primary: Eliot.
- Critical: Lewis (Chapter 4).

Session 7 / Week 40:
Modernist long poem: The Waste Land (II)
Reading:
- Primary: Eliot.
- Critical: Lewis (Chapter 4).
NO SESSION ON WEEK 41

Session 8 / Week 42:
*Ulysses*
Reading:
- Primary: Joyce, *Ulysses*.
- Critical: Lewis (Chapter 5).

Session 9 / Week 43:
*To the Lighthouse* (I)
Reading:
- Primary: Woolf.
- Critical: Lothe, Lewis (Chapter 5).

Session 10 / Week 44:
*To the Lighthouse* (II)
Reading:
- Primary: Woolf.
- Critical: Lothe, Lewis (Chapter 5).

Session 11 / Week 45:
What have we left out? Thinking about *modernisms* and canons.
(No set reading.)

Session 12 / Week 46:
Summing up.