

Modernism (Eng 357.01)
Fall 2015, TR 9:30-10:45am, Curry Bldg. 241

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Office hours: TR 11:00-1:00pm and by appointment



Course description

A study of the avant-garde literature of the early twentieth century, focusing on the work of writers including Marcel Proust, Virginia Woolf, Ezra Pound, T. S. Eliot, and others, and considering the related experiments in the visual arts and in the fields of music and dance.

Required Texts: Each student must own the following texts, all of which are available at the UNCG Bookstore. If you obtain them elsewhere, please be sure to purchase the same editions; digital editions are not recommended and may be used only if they are paginated identically to the print editions used in class. **If you have not obtained the texts by the third class meeting of the semester, your attendance grade will be penalized ½ point each day until you do; the same penalty will occur if you do not bring the required text to each class thereafter.**

Eliot, T. S. *The Waste Land*. Norton Critical Edition, 2000. (9780393974997)
Kafka, Franz. *The Metamorphosis*. Trans. Bernofsky. Norton, 2014. (978-0393347098)
Mann, Thomas. *Death in Venice and Seven Other Stories*. Vintage, 1989. (978-0679722069)
Nietzsche, Friedrich. *The Birth of Tragedy & The Genealogy of Morals*. Random House, 1956. (9780385092104)
Pound, Ezra. *Early Writings*. Penguin, 2005. (9780142180136)
Proust, Marcel. *In Search of Lost Time. Vol. 1: Swann's Way*. Modern Library, 2003. (9780375751547)
Woolf, Virginia. *Mrs. Dalloway*. Harcourt, 1990. (9780156628709)

Digital Texts: In addition to obtaining the anthology listed above, students are responsible **for bringing to class** copies of assorted reading materials posted on the class Canvas site; failure to bring items to class will result in attendance penalties of ½ point per occurrence. **Students may not access the texts via smartphone; e-readers and laptops are acceptable only if they allow students to take notes on documents.**

General Requirements (and grade distributions)

1 Mid-term exam (Exam 1)	20%
1 Final exam (Exam 2)	30%
1 Final paper (8-10 pp)	25%
Reading Questions & Quizzes	20% (15% & 5%)
Attendance	5%

I. Keys to Succeeding in this Class

1. **Come to class on time, and take notes.** Examination questions are based directly upon lecture and class discussion, and no digital lecture notes or synopses shall be provided.
2. **Buy your books, complete the readings, and bring them to class.** Remaining in this course means that you accept responsibility for purchasing or otherwise obtaining the appropriate texts and bringing them to class. Students who come to class without the readings will receive a penalty to their attendance grade and may be asked to leave and obtain them before attending.
3. **Ask questions, and participate in discussion.** This is not a lecture course, and it does not repay passive learning. Students who speak up in class; ask and answer questions; and engage with their professor and colleagues will do better in the class than those who do not.

II. Aims and Introductory Remarks

1. **Class Goals:** Pedagogical goals for this class may be divided into three categories:

(a) **Structural or Formal:** Recognize the relationship between content and form in a literary text. Account for formal attributes in terms of literary devices including metaphor, imagery, sequencing, etc. Distinguish between art and other modes of discourse. Study the workings of a literary text in a way that enriches and enhances one's enjoyment of the work.

(b) **Literary History:** Become familiar enough with each author to give a brief account of his or her characteristic ideas and style in a few sentences. Become deeply informed about several primary texts with which one can associate an author's name and achievement. Distinguish between the various literary schools and movements. Think about literary history in critical terms.

(c) **Intellectual History:** Read literary texts with an eye toward broader questions of intellectual importance and urgency. Understand philosophical questions that motivate literary movements and styles.

2. Reading

The course is designed so that students will be expected to read a great deal more material than we will have time to discuss in class. Class conversations will focus primarily on exploring brief portions of the reading assignment (which are noted in the syllabus), so that students may then return to the rest of the text with new insight in preparation for their exams and essays. Students are always encouraged to introduce relevant material from the text into class discussion and on graded assignments.

3. Class Discussion

Class will consist of some lecture but will be driven primarily by student questions and dialogue. Students can best prepare for discussion by (a) reading the introductory material to each assignment, (b) reading the assignment several times, (c) marking the text with notes and questions, (d) actively integrating those notes and questions into their contributions to class discussion, and (e) researching the work of scholars and critics of literary modernism in scholarly monographs and literary periodicals.

III. Specific Requirements

1. **Examinations:** Exams will consist of three sorts of questions: identification, short-answer, and essay. Identification questions involve identifying the author and title of a given passage, though they may also require a short explication of the passage indicating its style, precedents, and place in the literary tradition. Short-answer questions involve recalling and often synthesizing materials from readings and class discussion. Essay questions

will ask you to respond to a brief, specific question at a certain length. Essay questions may address literary periods and movements, stylistic devices, terminology, and the like. You should prepare a list that includes authors and the titles of their works (no other information is permitted) to assist you with the identification segment of the exam; you are responsible for its preparation, and the list is subject to my examination and approval. You must bring a blue book with you to class on the day of the examination, and you must answer exam questions in numerical order.

2. Writing assignment: Each student will submit 1 final paper of 8-10 pp. Detailed instructions and grading criteria shall be available on Canvas.

3. Reading Questions & Quizzes: Reading questions will be assigned beforehand and should be completed according to the specifications on Canvas. Quizzes will be unannounced and will typically consist of three short questions that will be answerable after having read the assigned material for that class period. No make-up quizzes or late questions will be accepted. I calculate quiz grades on a weighted scale as follows: 3/3=100%, 2/3=75%, 1/3=50%.

IV. Course Policies and Guidelines

Email Policy: All email messages to me must contain in the subject line (1) your last name and (2) the course number. Messages without the proper subject heading are not likely to receive responses. I do not accept assignments via email.

Grading Policy: Each assignment will be graded on a scale from A to F (see grading scale below for numeric equivalents). All questions about grade assessment on specific assignments should be addressed to me directly, not to the teaching assistant. You must complete every assignment to pass this class.

Late Submission Policy: All papers or assignments turned in after the class period in which they are due will be penalized one letter grade *per day* late (not per class period). Please arrange to have your written assignment delivered to me or to my mailbox by the end of class on the date due if you are absent.

Participation Policy: Please arrive to class on time and prepared for discussion with notes and questions. Students are welcome to speak with me about the status of their participation level in class and what they can do to improve it. Also, students are encouraged to meet with me in order to offer feedback on class discussion if they find that they are unable to participate as much as they would like.

Laptop and Tablet Policy: Laptops and digital tablets are only permitted when being actively used for the purpose of accessing texts (see above guidelines in “Digital Texts”). I ask that students refrain from using them throughout the class for note-taking and other activities, whether these activities pertain directly to the discussion underway or not.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is mandatory and counts for 5% of your grade; it will be affected negatively by frequent tardiness. Failing to bring the text to class will also affect your attendance grade negatively. Excused absences must not exceed 2; an excused absence is simply one of which I have been advised ahead of time either by written note or email. Missing 5 or more classes (in a TR course) or 6 or more classes (in a MWF course) will result in an “F” for the course. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to take all steps necessary to complete the assignment for the next class on-time. Calculate your attendance grade using the formula $[(10.0 - A) / 10]$, where A= the number of unexcused absences. By state law, students are allowed 2 religious observance absences, which do not factor into the above equation; however, the instructor must be notified in writing at least 48 hours prior to the absence. Students who encounter extenuating circumstances should immediately contact the Dean of Students Office (<http://sa.uncg.edu/dean/>), which will advocate on their behalf.

Office Hours: I welcome students to meet with me during office hours or, if they are unable to meet at that time, to contact me so that we can schedule an alternate time convenient to us both. Please be sure to read the “email policy” (above) if requesting a meeting via email.

UNCG Academic Integrity Policy: First responsibility for academic integrity lies with individual students and faculty members of the UNCG community. Academic integrity is founded upon and encompasses the following five values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Violations include, for example, cheating, plagiarism, misuse of academic resources, falsification, and facilitating academic dishonesty. If knowledge is to be gained and properly evaluated, it must be pursued under conditions free from dishonesty. Deceit and misrepresentations are incompatible with the fundamental activity of this academic institution and shall not be tolerated. A violation of academic integrity is an act harmful to all other students, faculty and, ultimately, the entire community. Specific information on the Academic Integrity Policy and obligations of faculty and students may be found online at <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu>. Selling class notes for commercial gain or purchasing such class notes in this or any other course at UNCG is a violation of the University's Copyright Policy and of the Student Code of Conduct.

Sanctions for failure to document work properly or for suspected violations of academic integrity: Unacknowledged use of someone else's work is plagiarism; work that is not properly documented will receive a zero. Further penalties may be assessed according to the Academic Integrity Policy, including the initiation formal proceedings as outlined by the Dean of Students Office: <http://sa.uncg.edu/dean/academic-integrity/violation/plagiarism>. Students suspected of using any form of unauthorized electronic device during quizzes or exams will receive a zero.

Student Counseling Center: If you have difficulty meeting the demands of this or any class because of personal or family problems, anxiety, or any other emotional distress, please contact the Student Counseling and Testing Center: (336) 334-5874. <http://studenthealth.uncg.edu/ctc/>.

Important notice regarding disability: UNCG seeks to comply fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a disability must be registered with the Office of Accessibility Resources & Services (OARS) located at 215 EUC. See <http://ods.uncg.edu>.

Grading Scale

A+	97.0 and above
A	93.0-96.9
A-	90.0-92.9
B+	87.0-89.9
B	83.0-86.9
B-	80.0-82.9
C+	77.0-79.9
C	73.0-76.9
C-	70.0-72.9
D+	67.0-69.9
D	63.0-66.9
D-	60.0-62.9
F	Below 60

V. Reading and Exam Schedule

date		topic	reading assignment
T	18-Aug	Introduction	
TH	20-Aug	Baudelaire	"The Cracked Bell," "A Carrion," "New Notes on Edgar Poe" (PDF)
T	25-Aug	Baudelaire	"The Painter of Modern Life" (PDF)
TH	27-Aug	Nietzsche	<i>The Birth of Tragedy</i> (1-69)
T	1-Sep	Nietzsche	<i>The Birth of Tragedy</i> (69-end)
TH	3-Sep	Woolf	<i>Mrs. Dalloway</i> (1-14), "Mr. Bennett and Mrs. Brown" (PDF)
T	8-Sep	Woolf	<i>Mrs. Dalloway</i> (14-end)
TH	10-Sep	Woolf	<i>Mrs. Dalloway</i> (14-end, cont.)
T	15-Sep	Pound	ix-xxvi, 3-105 (poems); "Imagism" (209), "How I Began" (211), "A Retrospect" (252) "Vorticism" 278). FOCUS: "Histriion," "The Return," "The Station of the Metro," "L'Art, 1910"
TH	17-Sep	Pound	3-105 (poems), "Chinese Poetry" (297), "Chinese Poetry--II"(301). FOCUS: "The Jewel Stairs' Grievance" (PDF), "The Seafarer," "The River-Merchant's Wife," "Exile's Letter"
T	22-Sep	Kafka	<i>The Metamorphosis</i> (all)
TH	24-Sep	Kafka	<i>The Metamorphosis</i> (all)
T	29-Sep	Rilke	readings TBA
TH	1-Oct	Rilke	readings TBA
T	6-Oct	cubism	Edward Fry, "The History of Cubism"; Pablo Picasso, excerpts from <i>Picasso on Art: A Selection of Views</i> (PDFs); video on <i>Les Demoiselles d'Avignon</i> , Khan Academy (Canvas)
TH	8-Oct	Review	
T	13-Oct	Fall break	
TH	15-Oct	Exam 1	
T	20-Oct	Proust	<i>Swann's Way</i> (1-64)
TH	22-Oct	Proust	<i>Swann's Way</i> (65-264)
T	27-Oct	Proust	<i>Swann's Way</i> (545-606)
TH	29-Oct	Mann	"Death in Venice" (all)
T	3-Nov	Mann	"Death in Venice" (all)
TH	5-Nov	Russian Ballet	Hodson, "Nijinsky's Crime Against Grace" (PDF)
T	10-Nov	Eliot	<i>The Waste Land</i> (1-26)
TH	12-Nov	Eliot	<i>The Waste Land</i> (1-26)
T	17-Nov	Eliot	<i>The Waste Land</i> (1-26)
TH	19-Nov	Review	
T	24-Nov	Exam 2; last class meeting	
TH	26-Nov	Thanksgiving holiday	
T	3-Dec	Final paper due (before noon)	