

Lit7-347 Modern American Prose/Fall Semester 2018

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Wednesday 18:30-21:00 Room 417

Office Hours: Wed. 17:30-18:30, Thurs. 10:00-11:00 & 13:30-15:30

Description

This course explores early 20th century American modernist literature. We will discuss what the terms 'modernity,' 'modernization,' and 'modernism' mean and we will attempt a tentative historical contextualization of modernist aesthetics. The course emphasizes on the genre of the novel and attends to major works by William Faulkner, Ernest Hemingway and F. Scott Fitzgerald. Some of the questions we will be asking in our readings include: What are the main characteristics of modernism? How do we 'read' modernist works? How did various socio-historic and cultural conflicts affect American writers? What was the impact of modernization on these texts? Special attention will be given to the ways that American modernist fiction tackles the themes of alienation, displacement, urbanization, and consumer capitalism.

Syllabus

THEORETICAL ESSAYS (Corpus)

Eysteinson, Astradur. "Modernism in Literary History." *The Concept of Modernism*.

Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1990. 50-102.

Barnard, Rita. "Modern American Fiction." *The Cambridge Companion to American*

Modernism. Ed. Walter B. Kalaidjian. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005. 39-67.

Bradbury, Malcolm and James Mc Farlane. "The Name and Nature of Modernism."

Modernism: 1890-1930. Ed. Malcolm Bradbury and James Mc Farlane. Sussex: The Harvester Press, 1981. 19-55.

Howe, Irving. "The Characteristics of Modernism." *American Modernism*. Ed. Scott

Barbour. San Diego: Greenhaven P, 2000. 28-35.

Singal, Daniel Joseph. "Towards a Definition of American Modernism." *American*

Quarterly 39.1 (1987): 7-26.

NOVELS

William Faulkner. *As I Lay Dying* (1930)

Ernest Hemingway. *A Farewell to Arms* (1929)

F. Scott Fitzgerald. *The Great Gatsby* (1925)

SHORT STORIES

Edith Wharton. "All Souls" (1937)

The theoretical essays and the short story (Wharton) will be available from the copy-center "Σελήνη."

***As I Lay Dying* is included in *The Norton Anthology of American Literature* both 7th and 8th editions.**

***A Farewell to Arms* and *The Great Gatsby* will be distributed by the instructor.**

Please note that in order to participate fully in lectures, you must bring texts to class.

Course Outline

WEEK 1: Introduction to the Course. The Modern Era. Modernist Aesthetics.

WEEK 2: Modernist Aesthetics and Themes. Edith Wharton's "All Souls" (1937)

WEEK 3: Edith Wharton's "All Souls" (1937)

WEEKS 4-5-6: William Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying* (1930)

WEEKS 7-8-9: Ernest Hemingway's *A Farewell to Arms* (1929)

WEEKS 10-11-12: F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* (1925)

WEEK 13: Review.