Name of the course: Survey of Twentieth Century Anglo-American Literature
Lecturer name: Yael Segalovitz
Course number:
Office hours: Tuesday, 12:00-14:00

Short course description (5-10 lines) with key words at the end of the paragraph
There is hardly a term more widely associated with early- to mid-twentieth century literature, both within and outside the Anglo-American world, than “modernism.” In this course, we will follow the contours of this literary movement and style through the reading of seminal modernist works, such as T.S. Eliot’s “The Waste Land,” Virginia Woolf’s To the Lighthouse, and William Faulkner’s “The Bear.” Through these texts, we will explore the modernist’s investment in epistemological uncertainty, the absurd, the feminine, and the gothic, among other themes. In order to better perceive the salient characteristics associated with modernism, we will read these works alongside the post-modernist literary responses they incited in the second half of the 20th century including John Barth’s “Lost in the Funhouse,” and Sylvia Plath’s poetry. These systematic transitions will help us elucidate the critique mounted against modernism as an ostensibly apolitical and ahistorical aesthetic movement. Throughout the course, we will ask: how does modernist style vary across genres (poetry, prose-fiction, drama)? What could be the motivations deriving modernist artists? And how do race, gender, and class play themselves out in modernist and post-modernist works?

Key words: Modernism, Post-Modernism, Literary Style, Epistemology, The Politics of Form.

Course requirements:
Attendance required: yes
1. Participation 5% (active participation in class)
2. Midterm Essay (2-3 pages) 35% (draft 10%, revision 25%)
3. Final Paper (5-6 pages) 60% (draft 20%, revision 40%)
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Texts
- The majority of reading materials will be available on Moodle ([https://moodle2.bgu.ac.il/moodle/](https://moodle2.bgu.ac.il/moodle/))
- *Waiting for Godot* (Samuel Beckett), to be found at the library or Tzomet Sfarim
- *To the Lighthouse* (Virginia Woolf), to be found at the library or Tzomet Sfarim

Requirements:
**Attendance** is mandatory. You are allowed up to two unexcused absences during the semester, including *Tkufat Hashinuyim*. **Any additional absence will prevent you from completing the course.** If you need to be absent for more than two classes due to a medical or family emergency, please get in touch with me in advance about possible arrangements. **You are responsible for material you miss during an absence.** Please consult another student in the course about the material you missed or come to see me in office hours rather than emailing.

**Read** the assigned text(s) prior to each class meeting. I will send out 2–3 discussion questions prior to each class, they are meant to guide you in your reading.

**Participate** productively in class discussions. **Please come prepared to answer the discussion questions I will send out prior to each class.** Participation is an incredibly important aspect of this course, which will frequently involve class discussions. **If you are nervous about participating and/or public speaking in general, please come talk with**
me in office hours as soon as possible – we can brainstorm ways to make you feel more comfortable in class and consider alternative methods of participation.

Write one midterm essay (2-3 pages); one final paper (5-6 pages). For each paper, you will be requested to submit a draft, and then consult my comments to revise your paper into its final form. You will be graded on both the draft and the revision.

Sources: Your written work will be based on close readings of the primary texts. I recommend using a good dictionary, preferably the unabridged Oxford English Dictionary http://www.oed.com. You must document each and every source you consult as I do not tolerate plagiarism. You will find a number of resources on Moodle; use them to understand the issues we discuss, and ask questions whenever anything is not entirely clear to you.

Grade distribution
Participation 5% (discussion questions; participation in class)
Midterm Essay (2-3 pages) 35%
  • Draft 10%
  • Final version 25%
Final Paper (5-6 pages) 60%
  • Draft 20%
  • Final version 40%

Course Schedule

25/2  Introduction

Section One: Poems
11/3  Gertrude Stein, Tender Buttons (1914; selection)
18/3  Sylvia Plath, “Daddy” (1962); Anne Sexton, “Menstruation at Forty” (1965)

Section Two: Short Stories
25/3  (1) Franz Kafka, “The Metamorphosis” (1915)
1/4  William Faulkner, “The Bear” (1942)
8/4  William Faulkner, “The Bear” (1942)
14/4-26/4  NO CLASSES: PESSION BREAK
29/4  John Barth, “Lost in the Funhouse” (1968)

Section Three: Novels and Novellas
6/5  Midterm Paper (Draft) Due; James Joyce, The Dead (1914), 3-35
13/5  James Joyce, The Dead (1914), 36-70.
Screening of The Dead (feature film directed by John Huston); place and time TBA

20/5 Midterm Paper (Revision Due); Virginia Woolf, To The Lighthouse (1927) 3-70.

27/5 (1) Virginia Woolf, To The Lighthouse (1927), 71-130.
    (2) Virginia Woolf, “Mr. Bennett and Mrs. Brown” (1924)

3/6 Virginia Woolf, To The Lighthouse (1927); 130-200.

Section Four: Drama


17/6 Samuel Beckett, “Waiting for Godot” (1948), 60-120

24/6 Final Paper (Draft) Due

25/7 Final Paper (Revision) Due