



Shanghai University of Finance & Economics

2020 Summer Program

ENG 101-B English Literature: Modernism

Course Outline

Term: June 1 – June 26, 2020

Class Hours: 10:00-11:50 (Monday through Friday)

Instructor: Dr. Flavio Rizzo

Home Institution: Champlain College

Office Hours: TBA

Email: frizzo@champlain.edu

Credit: 4

Class Hours: This course will have 52 class hours, including 32 lecture hours, professor 8 office hours, 8-hour TA discussion sessions, 4-hour review sessions.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This semester we will tackle one of the most fascinating periods of English Literature, Modernism. Modernism as a movement takes a stand in turning the present as the object of its exploration, avant-garde goes as far as rejecting traditional modes of seeing the world, pushing our consciousness into new boundaries of thought and action. We will read one literary text per week and engage with some of the crucial elements that come to define this literary period from the emergence of individualism, the notion of the absurd and the questioning of the 19th century with its feeling of isolation and loss. What is “the darkness” that Conrad seems to explore through his novel? What is the identikit of a modernist writer? What can having or not having a room imply for a woman writer? What does modernism tell us about a dystopia narratives? As we study our selection of essential literary writings of the English tradition, we will explore these and more questions.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Excerpts from: *The Cambridge Companion to Modernism* edited by Michael Levensen

Heart of Darkness, Joseph Conrad

A Room of One's Own, Virginia Woolf

Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man, James Joyce



Brave New World, Aldous Huxley

LEARNING GOALS

In this course you will:

- Learn the main themes and aesthetic elements emerging out of Modernism
- Become familiar with the critical arguments emerging from this literary period
- Become knowledgeable about the texts on the syllabus and develop analytical and critical skills in dealing with modernist texts and more generally in unpacking literary texts
- Learn how to participate more effectively, in writing and orally, in a discussion on literary works

COURSE POLICIES and ASSIGNMENTS

Student lead roundtable discussion (20%) Details will be provided during the first day of classes.

Online (or Printed) Responses (short writing responses to readings) (20%)

Class participation, attendance, effort (30%) – Your contribution, questions, acknowledgment, and respect for the work of others and active participation in discussions are a vital part of your work during the semester.

Final Exam (30%)

GRADING SCALE

A	94-100	C	74-76
A-	90-93	C-	70-73
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	84-86	D	64-66
B-	80-83	D-	60-63
C+	77-79	F	0-59

GENERAL COURSE GUIDELINES

For any writing in this class please use Times New Roman, Font 12, Double Space. Don't forget to write your name and class days and time. Please note that no handwritten assignments will be accepted.

Attendance: You are expected to be present, prepared, and on time for all class sessions. Three unexcused absences will result in a one-letter final grade deduction (e.g. a B+ will be lowered to a C+). Four absences will result in a failing grade.



Lateness: To be late once or twice during the semester can happen to anybody and it is not a problem, but tardiness and/or leaving class for extended amounts of time will count as an unexcused absence.

Use of electronic devices: phones, tablets, computers are NOT allowed in class UNLESS otherwise instructed.

Emails: I am available via email. Feel free to write with any questions you may have

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1

Introduction to the course

Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*

Excerpts from: *The Cambridge Companion to Modernism* edited by Michael Levensen

Short response paper due

Week 2

A Room of One's Own, Virginia Woolf

Excerpts from W.E.B. Du Bois' *The Souls of Black Folk*

Excerpts from: *The Cambridge Companion to Modernism* edited by Michael Levensen

Short response paper due

Week 3

Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man, James Joyce

Excerpts from: *The Cambridge Companion to Modernism* edited by Michael Levensen

Short response paper due

Week 4

Brave New World, Aldous Huxley

Excerpts from: *The Cambridge Companion to Modernism* edited by Michael Levensen

Short response paper due

Final exam