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Yale University  
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Literature 91/Humanities 77:  
Modernism in Literature and the Arts

Survey of the modern movement in western European literature and art from the mid-nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. Writers include Baudelaire, Ibsen, Wilde, Yeats, H. D., Pound, Stein, Eliot, Mann, Proust, Joyce, Woolf, Pirandello, and Beckett. Consideration of movements in the visual arts from impressionism to surrealism.

**Texts**

Charles Baudelaire, *Flowers of Evil* (New Directions)  
Samuel Beckett, *Waiting for Godot* (Grove)  
T. S. Eliot, *The Waste Land* (Norton)  
Henrik Ibsen, *Four Major Plays* (Signet)  
James Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (Penguin)  
Thomas Mann, *Death in Venice and Seven Other Stories* (Vintage)  
Luigi Pirandello, *Six Characters in Search of an Author* (Signet)  
Marcel Proust, *Swann's Way* (Random House)  
Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Penguin)  
Virginia Woolf, *To the Lighthouse* (Harcourt Brace)  
W. B. Yeats, *Poetry, Drama, and Prose* (Norton)

Texts are available at Labyrinth Books, 290 York St.

Three books of art criticism are on reserve at Sterling Memorial Library for use in assignments relating to the visual arts. They are:

Francis Francina, et al., *Modernity and Modernism: French Painting in the Nineteenth Century*  
Charles Harrison, et al., *Primitivism, Cubism, Abstraction: The Early Twentieth Century*  
Briony Fer, et al., *Realism, Rationalism, Surrealism: Art Between the Wars*

**Class Time**

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:30-12:45. Please come on time. More than four unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for the course. Please turn off cell phones before class starts.

**Office Hours**

Tuesdays 2:00-3:45 and other times by appointment, 451 College Street, Room 213.  
I encourage all students to come meet with me during the process of writing papers for the course. In order to be sure of having enough time to talk, please schedule an appointment by calling Angelika Schriever at 432-2760.

### **On-Line Discussion Forum**

You can access the on-line discussion forum from [classesv2.yale.edu](http://classesv2.yale.edu). The class will be divided into four groups (A to D). The list of readings on pp. 3-4 below indicates which group is responsible for contributions to the discussion forum for each day. On the night before your day, post three short questions or a paragraph-long comment about the reading by midnight. The questions can focus on aspects of the reading that you did not understand, or on connections between the reading and previous discussions in class. They should be designed to stimulate discussion. Comments can respond to questions that other students have posted. Each student is responsible for six sets of questions or comments during the semester. If you fail to contribute to the forum on more than one of those six dates, your grade may be affected.

### **Other Course Requirements**

Regular attendance at class and participation in class discussions.

Attendance at the tour of the Yale University Art Gallery on October 19.

Memorization of a short poem by W. B. Yeats, to be recited on October 10 or 12.

Memorization of the first 18 lines of *The Waste Land*, to be recited on November 28.

Response paper on visit to Yale University Art Gallery, due October 20.

Three longer essays (4 to 6 pages), due September 29, October 27, and December 1.

Identification quiz on works of art, November 2.

Final take-home exam, due December 21.

Papers can be submitted at the drop-box outside the English department office (room 109, Linsly-Chittenden Hall), **with my name clearly indicated on the front page**, or at the Comparative Literature office (room 102, 451 College Street). Late papers will be penalized unless accompanied by a Dean's excuse.

### **Grades**

Grade for participation, attendance, discussion questions, quiz, response paper: 30%

Each of three longer papers: 15%

Final exam: 25%

You must complete all assignments to earn a passing grade in this class.

### **Format of Papers; Plagiarism**

Consult "Some Matters of Form" for guidelines about how to format your papers. This document will be distributed in class on September 19. Your assignments must be typed in 12-point font, with margins of one inch. We will discuss plagiarism before you hand in your first papers. You should document all your sources for any ideas or information if you are unsure whether they originated with you. (This includes any information you find on the web). Yale College regulations require that I report all cases of plagiarism to the Yale College Executive Committee. You can find further information in a pamphlet entitled "Sources: Their Use and Acknowledgment," which you should have received from the Yale College Dean's Office. See also <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~sources/>.

## Readings

The number of pages is not great, but the reading is difficult, and you should plan to read each selection slowly and carefully. You should read the poems at least twice. On some days, your assignment consists of watching a slide show on the course website. You should look carefully at each of the slides, making notes about your impressions.

### September

Th	7	Introduction to the course
T	12	Nineteenth-Century French Art: see slide show on website [A]
Th	14	Baudelaire, <i>Flowers of Evil</i> (specific poems to be assigned) [B]
T	19	Ibsen, <i>A Doll's House</i> [C]; Distribution of "Some Matters of Form" and discussion of plagiarism.
Th	21	Ibsen, <i>Hedda Gabler</i> [D]
T	26	Wilde, <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> [A]
Th	28	Impressionism and Post-Impressionism: see slide show [B]
F	29	<b>First paper due (on Ibsen or Wilde)</b>

### October

T	3	Yeats, <i>Poetry, Drama, and Prose</i> (specific poems to be assigned) [C]
Th	5	Primitivism and futurism in early 20 <sup>th</sup> -century art: see slide show [D]
T	10	Imagist poems by Ezra Pound and H. D. (to be distributed) [A]; <b>Recitation of Yeats poems</b>
Th	12	Essay and prose poems by Gertrude Stein (to be distributed) [B]; <b>Recitation of Yeats poems</b>
T	17	Cubism and abstract art: see slide show [C];
Th	19	Visit to Yale University Art Gallery [D];
F	20	<b>Response paper on Art Gallery visit due</b>
T	24	Dada and surrealism: see slide show [A];
Th	26	Thomas Mann, "Death in Venice" [B];
F	27	<b>Second paper due (on modern poetry or painting)</b>

T 31 Marcel Proust, "Combray" [C];

### November

Th	2	James Joyce, <i>Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i> [D] <b>Identification quiz on art</b>
T	7	James Joyce, <i>Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i> [A]
Th	9	James Joyce, <i>Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i> [B];

T 14 T. S. Eliot, *The Waste Land* [C]  
Th 16 Yeats, *Poetry, Drama, and Prose* (specific poems to be assigned) [D]  
  
T 28 Virginia Woolf, *To the Lighthouse* [A]  
**Recitation of first 18 lines of *The Waste Land* (sign up for a time)**  
Th 30 Virginia Woolf, *To the Lighthouse* [B]

*December*

F 1 **Third paper due (on Mann, Proust, Joyce, or Woolf)**  
T 5 Luigi Pirandello, *Six Characters in Search of an Author* [C];  
W 6 Screening of *Waiting for Godot*  
Th 7 Samuel Beckett, *Waiting for Godot* [D];  
**Distribution of Take-Home Exam**  
  
Th 21 **Take-Home Exam due by 5:00**