

ENGL 6572 Sociologies of Modernist Literature

Spring 2014
Monday 12:20-2:15
Olin Library 603

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office hours: Tuesday 10:00-12:00

This course has two foci. It provides an introduction to signal issues in the study of literary modernism, examining the production and early reception of key works and then following those works' diffuse distribution, and contested authority, throughout the twentieth century in an increasingly global framework. Second, and interrelatedly, it introduces theoretical approaches in the sociology of literature, in order to examine problems currently animating literary scholarship, and the humanities in general.

The primary case study is T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land*, which will be examined genetically (by reading the typed and manuscript drafts, including marginal commentary by Ezra Pound and Vivienne Eliot) and along the lines of its carefully managed reception in Britain and the United States. This will lead to units on the problems of modernist literary distribution and circulation, examining works that responded to *The Waste Land* (by writers including Woolf, Williams, Rukeyser, Zukofsky, Rich, Tolson, Césaire, and Kavanagh) and studying the literary institutions — such as the little magazine — that shaped this dialogical poetic culture. The course ends with studies of global modernisms and literary systems (Casanova, Moretti), the digital humanities, and, in a reflexive spirit, the situation of literature in the university after modernism (McGurl, Liu).

The discipline of sociology developed contemporaneously with the emergence of modernist literary culture, and some of the discipline's major theorists (Williams, Bourdieu) have often invoked and returned to the example of modernist literary culture in their theoretical writings. The seminar will consider the implications of this fact, while focusing on a series of ongoing inquiries initiated through the interaction of literary and sociological study. A [recent special issue](#) of *New Literary History* observed that these disciplinary practices have never been more thoroughly integrated, from the critique of aesthetics (Bourdieu, Guillory), to book history and studies of the material text (McGann, Chartier, Darnton), reception studies (Radway), risk theory and reflexive modernity (Beck), systems theory (Luhmann), reflexive studies of academic life (Brennan, Graff), law and literature, and the renewed attention to global literature (in English and otherwise). Yet this list, like the seminar itself, does not name all of what is most exciting in the domain of the new sociologies of literature.

In addition to concerted study of literary sociological theory, students will be introduced to methods in material and archival research, and digital humanities scholarship. Throughout the semester, students will take turns preparing bibliographic or summary handouts on the course's authors or texts. Written work will include a short book review (750-1000 words), an annotated bibliography, and a final paper (4000-6000 words).

Required books:

Pierre Bourdieu, *Masculine Domination* (Stanford UP) 0804738203
Pierre Bourdieu, *The Rules of Art* (Stanford UP) 0804726272
Pascale Casanova, *The World Republic of Letters* (Harvard UP) 0674010213
Aimé Césaire, *The Original 1939 Notebook of a Return to the Native Land* (Wesleyan UP) 0819573701
T.S. Eliot, *The Waste Land (facsimile and transcript of the original drafts)*
Franco Moretti, *Graphs, Maps, Trees* (Verso) 1844671852
Adrienne Rich, *Snapshots of a Daughter-in-Law* (Norton) 0393041468
Melvin Tolson, *"Harlem Gallery" and Other Poems* (U Virginia P) 0813918650
Raymond Williams, *Marxism and Literature* (Oxford UP) 0198760612
William Carlos Williams, *Spring and All* (New Directions facsimile edition) 0811218910
Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway (annotated)* (Mariner) 0156030357

Recommended books:

Theodor Adorno, *Introduction to Sociology* (Stanford UP) 0804746834
David Finkelstein and Alistair McCleery, eds. *The Book History Reader*, 2nd ed. (Routledge) 0415359481
Bruno Latour, *Reassembling the Social* (Oxford UP) 0199256055
Alan Liu, *The Laws of Cool: Knowledge Work and the Culture of Information* (U Chicago P) 0226486990
Raymond Williams, *Keywords* (Oxford UP) 0195204697

Required and recommended books are available at **Buffalo Street Books** and can be ordered through their website at www.buffalostreetbooks.com/#!/students/cuiy, by telephone (**607-273-8246**), or by email (firstclass@buffalostreetbooks.com). They can be delivered directly to class on **Monday, January 27**. Books can also be picked up at the store. Buffalo Street Books is located in the DeWitt Mall on Buffalo Street between Cayuga and Tioga Streets in Downtown Ithaca. For those unable to pay for all the books at once, the books can be placed on hold and purchased throughout the semester.

All books will also be on reserve at the circulation desk of Olin Library, along with other recommended works. A list of reserve books is on the course blackboard site.

Schedule of Assignments

Readings that are not drawn from the required books will be available on the course blackboard page, and indicated on the syllabus by asterisks **.

Assigned readings from the *Book History Reader* are indicated (BHR).

27 January **advance reading**

T.S. Eliot, *The Waste Land* (1922)
Mark McGurl, "[Ordinary Doom: Literary Studies in the Waste Land of the Present](#)" (2010)

further reading

Priscilla Parkhurst Ferguson, Philippe Desan, Wendy Griswold, "[Mirrors, Frames, and Demons, Reflections on the Sociology of Literature](#)" (1988)

James F. English, "[Everywhere and Nowhere: The Sociology of Literature after 'The Sociology of Literature'](#)" (2010)

3 February **metropolitan perceptions**

Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway* (1925)
Georg Simmel, "The Metropolis and Mental Life" (1903) **
Raymond Williams, "When Was Modernism?" (1987) **
"Metropolitan Perceptions and the Emergence of Modernism" (1987) **
"The Bloomsbury Fraction" (1980) **

further reading

Raymond Williams, *Keywords* (1976, 1983)

- 10 February **Williams**
- Raymond Williams, *Marxism and Literature* (1977)
- further reading
Raymond Williams, *Keywords* (1976, 1983)
- 17 Feb (week) **lyric reactions**
- William Carlos Williams, *Spring and All* (1923)
Louis Zukofsky, "Poem beginning 'The'" (1926) **
Muriel Rukeyser, "The Book of the Dead" (1938) **
Countee Cullen, "Heritage" (1925) **
- further reading
Hart Crane, *The Bridge* (1930)
Langdon Hammer, *Hart Crane and Allen Tate: Janus-Faced Modernism* (1993)
Robert Frost, "Directive" (1942)
- find 1-3 recent books for review
- 24 February **geneses of the text and the field of cultural production**
- T.S. Eliot, *The Waste Land* (drafts and annotations) (1922)
Lawrence Rainey, from *Institutions of Modernism* ** (1999)
Pierre Bourdieu, "The Market of Symbolic Goods" (1971, trans. 1985) **
"The Field of Cultural Production" (1983) (*BHR*)
- further reading
Andrew Goldstone, from *Fictions of Autonomy* (2013) **
Jürgen Habermas, "The Social-Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere" (1960) **
Pierre Bourdieu, "Principles for a Sociology of Cultural Works" (1986) **
- select book for review
- 3 March **Bourdieu**
- Pierre Bourdieu, *The Rules of Art* (1992, trans. 1996): Prologue and Part I
James F. English, "Cultural Capital and the Revolutions of Literary Modernity, from Bourdieu to Casanova" (2013) **
- further reading
John Guillory, "[Bourdieu's Refusal](#)" (1997)
Timothy Brennan, "[Running and Dodging: The Rhetoric of Doubleness in Contemporary Theory](#)" (2010)
- 10 March **Little Magazines 1: *The Masses*** *class meets in Olin 106G*
- The Masses* (volumes 4, 5, and 9). The complete run of *The Masses* is available in digital facsimile at the [Modernist Journal Project](#).
John Timberman Newcomb, from *How Did Poetry Survive?* (2012)
D.F. McKenzie, "The Book as an Expressive Form" (1986) (*BHR*)
Robert Patten, "When is a Book Not a Book?" (1996) (*BHR*)

further reading

Princeton University's [Blue Mountain Project](#) of avant-garde magazines

John Sutherland, "Publishing History: A Hole at the Centre of Literary Sociology" (1988)

Peter Brooker and Andrew Thacker. Eds., *The Oxford Critical and Cultural History of Modernist Magazines*, vol. 2. (2012)

Robert Scholes and Clifford Wulfman, *Modernism in the Magazines* (2010)

Frederick J. Hoffman, et al. *The Little Magazine: A History and a Bibliography* (1947)

17 March

Little Magazines 2: Others

class meets in Olin 106G

Others (volumes 1-3). The complete run of *Others* is available in digital facsimile at the [Modernist Journal Project](#).

John Timberman Newcomb, from *How Did Poetry Survive?* (2012)

Robert Darnton, "What is the History of Books?" (1990) (BHR)

Jerome McGann, "The Socialization of Texts" (1991) (BHR)

Roger Chartier, "Laborers and Voyagers: From the Text to the Reader" (1992) (BHR)

Leah Price, "[From The History of a Book to a 'History of the Book'](#)" (2009)

further reading

Princeton University's [Blue Mountain Project](#) of avant-garde magazines

Peter Brooker and Andrew Thacker, eds., *The Oxford Critical and Cultural History of Modernist Magazines*, vol. 2. (2012)

Robert Scholes and Clifford Wulfman, *Modernism in the Magazines* (2010)

Frederick J. Hoffman, et al. *The Little Magazine: A History and a Bibliography* (1947)

24 March

feminism

Adrienne Rich, *Snapshots of a Daughter-in-Law: Poems 1954-1962*

Pierre Bourdieu, *Masculine Domination* (2002)

Lois McNay, "[Gender, Habitus, and the Field: Pierre Bourdieu and the Limits of Reflexivity](#)" (1999)

Julie McLeod, "[Feminists Re-Reading Bourdieu](#)" (2005)

further reading:

Rich, "When We Dead Awaken" (1971), "Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence" (1980) **

Albert Gelpi, "The Poetics of Change" (1974) **

Toril Moi, "[Appropriating Bourdieu](#)" (1991)

book reviews due

31 March

spring break

7 April

world literature 1

Franco Moretti, "[Conjectures on World Literature](#)" (2000)
Pascale Casanova, from *The World Republic of Letters* (2004), introduction and chapters 1, 3, 5, 6, 8
Casanova, "[Literature as a World](#)" (2005)

Further reading

Wendy Griswold, *Bearing Witness: Readers, Writers, and the Novel in Nigeria* (2000)
Casanova, "Combative Literatures" (2011)
Natalie Melas, *All the Difference in the World: Postcoloniality and the Ends of Comparison* (2008)

14 April

world literature 2

Aimé Césaire, *The Original 1939 Notebook of a Return to the Native Land*
Patrick Kavanagh, "The Great Hunger" (1942)
Melvin Tolson, *Libretto for the Republic of Liberia* (1953)

Further reading

Peter Kalliney, *Commonwealth of Letters: British Literary Culture and the Emergence of Postcolonial Aesthetics* (2013)
Kathy Lou Schultz, *The Afro-Modernist Epic and Literary History* (2013)
Mark Wollaeger, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of Global Modernisms* (2012)

annotated bibliography due

21 April

modernism in the university, 1945-present

Alan Liu, *The Laws of Cool: Knowledge Work and the Culture of Information* (14-72, 195-230, 286-315) (2004)
Mark McGurl, "[The Program Era](#)" (2005)

Further reading

Gerald Graff, *Professing Literature: An Institutional History* (1987)
James F. English, *The Global Future of English Studies* (2012)

28 April

Latour's challenge

Bruno Latour, "[Where are the Missing Masses?](#)" (1992)
Reassembling the Social (1-17, 63-86) (2005)
Rita Felski, "[Context Stinks!](#)" (2011)
Heather Love, "[Close But Not Deep: Literary Ethics and the Descriptive Turn](#)" (2010)

Further reading

Latour, "[Why Has Critique Run Out of Steam? From Matters of Fact to Matters of Concern](#)" (2004)

5 May

digital humanities

class meets in Olin 106G

Franco Moretti, *Graphs, Maps, Trees* (2007)

Richard Jean So and Hoyt Long, "[Network Analysis and the Sociology of Modernism](#)" (2013)

So, Long, and McEnaney's [Global Literary Networks](#) project site

Andrew Goldstone and Ted Underwood, "[Topic-Modeling PMLA](#)" (2012)

Further reading

Ted Underwood, et al. "[Mapping Mutable Genres in Structurally Complex Volumes](#)" (2013)

Underwood's [Uses of Scale](#) project site

14 May

final paper due