

HRS 136 Birth of the Modern

MND 1024 Tues/Thurs 3:00-4:15

Prof. V. Shinbrot

Office: 2014 Mendocino Hall

Office Hours: Tuesday, 2:30-3:00, 4:30-5:30, Thursday 4:30-6:00

Email: vshinbrot@csus.edu

Course Description: Investigation of those crises in art and society underlying the development of modernism and postmodernism. **Prerequisite: Passing score on the WPE. General Education Area C4.* Writing Intensive***

Course Objectives: This course traces the dynamic rise of the modernist movement in Europe and America from the mid-nineteenth to the early twentieth century. We will study the way in which modernist artists, writers, and philosophers radically question and reshape the traditional parameters of reality and representation and redefine their ideas about their relationship to society, their identity and the meaningfulness of their world against a background of social and political upheaval. By the end of the semester students will be able to:

- Develop keen analytical skills through close and careful readings of the texts, thoughtful, well-written essays and class discussion.
- Analyze the impact that key historical events have on changing styles and concepts in art, literature and music from the nineteenth to the mid-twentieth-century.
- Identify and explain key terms like “Expressionism” and “Modernism” and compare how these terms apply to the different branches of the arts and humanities and how they vary across national boundaries and historical contexts.

Required Texts:

Reader: Available at University Copy and Print, 446 Howe Ave (Behind Tokyo Fro’s on Fair Oaks Blvd., 929-6147). **Please purchase by the second class meeting.**

Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*

Kafka, *Basic Kafka*

Borges, *Labyrinths*

West, *Miss Lonely Hearts and the Day of the Locusts*

Baldwin, *Going to Meet the Man*

Grading and Assignments: Class attendance and participation are essential requirements of the course. Students are expected to come to class prepared with their own questions, ideas, comments and creative input to discuss in an open-minded and stimulating environment. Failure to prepare for or attend class will seriously lower your grade. Departmental Policy states that more than one week of absences from class will

result in the lowering of the student’s grade one-half step per each additional absence. **In addition, doing other work in class, text messaging, answering cell phones, chatting with neighbors, falling asleep or behaving or speaking in an uncivil or aggressive manner to any member of the class including the instructor, will automatically lower your participation grade by one full grade each time you do so. Laptops are not permitted except with the expressed permission of the instructor.**

Final Grades for the course will be assigned based on the following percentages:

- Essay One: 20%
- Exam One 20%
- Exam Two 20%
- Essay Two: 20%
- Class Participation/Pop Reading Quizzes/Attendance: 20%

Exams: No make-up exams will be given.

Essays: 8-10 typed pages, double-spaced. This is a writing intensive course which means you will be asked to submit drafts and outlines, to participate in workshops and to undertake serious revision and editing of your written work. Failure to turn in a draft of your essay and/or missing a workshop will result in a lowering of your grade.

Late papers will be marked down one grade and will not be accepted after one week of the due date.

Plagiarism: Should you plagiarize intentionally or unintentionally regulations require that the assignment receive the grade of F and that the matter be referred to Student Affairs for further disciplinary action.

Please bring relevant books to each class meeting. Assignments must be completed by the date listed on the syllabus.

Week One:	
Tuesday, January 27th	Introduction to the Course
Thursday, January 29th	Impressionism- Please read selections in Course Reader
Week Two: Tuesday, Feb., 3rd	Read selections from Baudelaire in Course Reader.
Thursday, Feb. 5th	Baudelaire Continued
Week Three: Tuesday, Feb., 10th	<i>Introduction to Cubism</i> Read Mayakovsky’s “Manifesto,” “Street to Street” Huidobro’s “Eiffel Tower” and Rilke’s “The Panther” and poems by Lorca and others in Reader
Thursday, Feb., 12th	Cubism Continued.
Week Four:	World War I and Its Impact. Read poems

Tuesday, Feb., 17th	by Sasoon and Yeats' "The Second Coming" as well as selected readings in Course Reader
Thursday, Feb., 19th	Stravinsky!
Week Five: Tuesday, Feb. 24th	More Moderns. Read Eliot's "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock," Bogan's "Medusa" and Stevens's "Sunday Morning," "The Idea of Order at Key West," and poems by e.e. cummings in Reader
Thursday, Feb., 26th	Expressionism. Read excerpts from Freud in Reader and Kafka's "The Metamorphosis" in <i>The Basic Kafka</i> .
Week Six: Tuesday, March 3rd	Read Kafka's "Imperial Message" and "The Judgment in <i>The Basic Kafka</i> .
Thursday, March 5th	Conclude Kafka and Review
Week Seven: Tuesday, March 10th	<i>Exam One</i>
Thursday, March 12th	Film: <i>Dr. Caligari's Cabinet or The Blue Angel</i>
Week Eight: Tuesday, March 17th	Film: <i>Dr. Caligari's Cabinet or The Blue Angel</i>
Thursday, March 19th	Essay Draft Workshop: Please bring 3 copies of the first 2 pages of your essay to class for peer editing. Please be sure to have Xeroxes ready at the start of class and do not leave this to the last minute.
Week Nine: Tuesday, March 24th	Read <i>Mrs. Dalloway</i> pp. 3-64
Thursday, March 26th	<i>Essay One Due. Mrs. Dalloway</i> pp. 64-125
Week Ten: Tues, March 30th	Spring Break
Thursday, April 2nd	Spring Break

Week Eleven: Tuesday, April 7th	<i>Mrs. Dalloway</i> pp. 125-194
Thursday, April 9th	<i>Mrs. Dalloway Concluded</i>
Week Twelve: Tuesday, April 14th	Harlem Renaissance. Read poems by Hughes, Cullen and McKay in Norton
Thursday, April 16th	Read Borges' "The Garden of Forking Paths" and "Theme of the Traitor and the Hero" and "Ragnarok" in <i>Labyrinths</i>
Week Thirteen: Tuesday, April 21st	Read West's <i>Miss Lonely Hearts</i>
Thursday, April 23rd	WWII and Its Impact. Please read Celan's "Death Fugue" and selections in Reader.
Week Fourteen: Tuesday, April 28th	Read Baldwin's "Sonny's Blues"
Thursday, April 30th	"Sonny's Blues" Concluded
Week Fifteen Tuesday, May 5th	Exam Two
Thursday, May 7th	Film: TBA
Week Sixteen Tuesday, May, 12 th	Draft Workshop: Please bring three copies of the first two pages of your essay for peer editing
Thursday, May 14th	Course Conclusion
Essay Two Due: Tuesday May 19th between 3:00 and 4:00 in my office 2014 Mendocino Hall.	No late papers will be accepted