

# HRS 136 Birth of the Modern

Tues/Thurs 3:00-4:15 MND 4004

Prof. V. Shinbrot

Office: 2014 Mendocino Hall

Office Hours: Tuesday 4:30-6:30, Thursday 4:30-5:30

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**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:

Melville, *Billy Budd and Other Stories*

Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*

Kafka, *Basic Kafka*

Borges, *Labyrinths*

Tertz, *Fantastic Stories*

Baldwin, *Going to Meet the Man*

Camus, *The Myth of Sisyphus*

*Norton Anthology of Modern Poetry vol.3*

Hughes, *Shock of the New*

**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.**

**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.**

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 29th	Introduction to the Course
Thursday, January 31st	<i>Expressionism, Modernism and the Fin de Siecle.</i> Read essay by Martin Jay
Week Two: Tuesday, Feb., 5th	Art and Music. Please read Hughes' "The View from the Edge" in Shock of the New.
Thursday, Feb. 7th	Please read selections from Nietzsche and Baudelaire in Reader.
Week Three: Tuesday, Feb., 12th	Please read Melville's "Bartleby"

Thursday, Feb., 14th	“Bartleby” concluded.
Week Four: Tuesday, Feb., 19th	<i>Cubism and Futurism</i> . Read Hughes’ Chapter “The Mechanical Paradise”. Also read Mayakovsky’s Manifesto, “A Cloud in Trousers,” Huidobro’s “Eiffel Tower” and Rilke’s “The Panther” in Reader
Thursday, Feb., 21st	<i>Film: Dr. Caligari’s Cabinet</i>
Week Five: Tuesday, Feb. 26th	<i>Dr. Caligari’s Cabinet continued</i>
Thursday, Feb., 28th	<i>World War I and Its Impact</i> . Read Hughes excerpt “The Faces of Power” in Reader. Also read Yeats “The Second Coming” and Sassoon’s “The Rear Guard”
Week Six: Tuesday, March 4th	<i>Exploring the Unconscious</i> . Read excerpts from James and Freud in Reader. Also read Kafka’s “Imperial Message” and “The Metamorphosis” in <i>The Basic Kafka</i> .
Thursday, March 6th	“The Metamorphosis” concluded
Week Seven: Tuesday, March 11th	Read Stevens’ “The Idea of Order at Key West,” “Of Modern Poetry” and “The Plain Sense of Things.” Also read Bogan’s “Medusa” and Eliot’s “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock.”
Thursday, March 13th	<b><i>Exam One</i></b>
Week Eight Tuesday, March 14th	Read <i>Mrs. Dalloway</i> pp. 3-64
Thursday, March 16th	<i>Mrs. Dalloway</i> pp. 64-125
Week Nine: Tuesday, March 18th	<i>Mrs. Dalloway</i> pp. 125-194
Thursday, March 20th	<i>Mrs. Dalloway Concluded</i>
Week Ten:	<b>Essay Draft Workshop: Please bring 3</b>

Tuesday, March 25th	<b>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.</b>
Thursday, March 27th	Draft Workshop Continued. Plus <i>Modern Times</i>
Week Eleven: Tues, April 1st	Spring Break
Thursday, April 3rd	Spring Break
Week Twelve: Tuesday, April 8th	Read Borges' "The Garden of Forking Paths" "Theme of the Traitor and the Hero" and "Ragnarok" in <i>Labyrinths</i> Borges
Thursday, April 10th	<b>Essay One Due.</b> Harlem Renaissance. Read poems by Hughes, Cullen and McKay in Norton.
Week Thirteen: Tuesday, April 15th	WWII and Its Impact. Please read Celan's "Death Fugue" in Reader.
Thursday, April 17th	Read Tertz Story.
Week Fourteen: Tuesday, April 22nd	<b>Existentialism.</b> Read Camus' "Myth of Sisyphus" pp.3-22, 93-102 and pp.119-123 and Sartre's Existentialism ....
Thursday, April 24th	Read Baldwin's "Sonny's Blues"
Week Fifteen: Tuesday, April 29th	"Sonny's Blues" Concluded
Thursday, May 1st	<b>Exam Two</b>
Tuesday, May 6th	Film TBA
Thursday, May 8th	Film TBA
Tuesday, May, 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Draft Workshop: Please bring three copies of the first two pages of your essay for peer editing</b>
Thursday, May 15th	Course Conclusion
<b>Essay Two Due: Tuesday May 20<sup>th</sup> between 3:00 and 4:00 in my office 2014 Mendocino Hall.</b>	<b>No late papers will be accepted</b>