

Comparative Literature 381 – *European Modernism and the World*

AJLC 102. TuTh 9:35-10:50. Professor: Jed Deppman.  
Visiting Hours: Friday 9-12 and by appointment in 28 Rice Hall.  
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Between 1880 and 1930, Europe was convulsed by wars, technological advances, and social transformations of all kinds. Writers and other artists responded by creating revolutionary new forms, techniques, and movements, e.g. Post-impressionism, Expressionism, Cubism, Futurism, Vorticism, Imagism, Dadaism, Surrealism... These and other strains of Modernism carried philosophical attitudes, political positions, and aesthetic ideas and practices to authors all over the 20th-century world. We will read works by a variety of writers to see why and how they received, rejected, and/or recombined central aspects of European Modernism. Identical to ENGL 381. 4H.

*Required Texts:*

Breton, André. *Nadja*.  
Dazai, Osamu. *The Setting Sun*.  
Cortázar, Julio. *Blow-Up and Other Stories*.  
Gordimer, Nadine. *My Son's Story*.  
Rhys, Jean. *Wide Sargasso Sea*.  
Soyinka, Wole. *Dance of the Forests*.  
T'ien-Wen, Chu. *Notes of a Desolate Man*.  
Woolf, Virginia. *To the Lighthouse*.

NB: Other required material will be distributed in class.

*Grading.*

40%: 4 papers, 3-5 pages, 10% each. 2 due before spring break, 2 after.  
30%: Final Paper (10-15 pages).  
20%: Participation: attendance; informed discussion in class and online; short writing assignments.  
10%: Class presentation.

Please note that to participate in this class, you must understand and adhere to Oberlin's Honor Code. See [www.oberlin.edu/students/student\\_pages/honor\\_code.html](http://www.oberlin.edu/students/student_pages/honor_code.html). Note also that attendance is mandatory; unexcused absences lower your grade. If you miss class, it is your responsibility 1) to turn your work in on time anyway and 2) learn the material you've missed – including class discussion – before the next class. Late assignments are reduced one full letter grade per day.

*Schedule*

2/8	Tuesday.	Introduction.
2/10	Thursday.	Woolf. <i>To the Lighthouse</i> . Part I.
2/15	Tuesday.	Woolf. <i>To the Lighthouse</i> . Parts II & III.
2/17	Thursday.	Woolf. <i>To the Lighthouse</i> .
2/22	Tuesday.	Woolf. <i>To the Lighthouse</i> .

2/24 Thursday. Breton. *Nadja*.  
 3/1 Tuesday. Breton. *Nadja*.  
 3/3 Thursday. *Modernism in the Allen Art Museum. Class meets in Museum.*  
 3/8 Tuesday. Soyinka. *Dance of the Forests*.  
 3/10 Thursday. Soyinka. *Dance of the Forests*.  
 3/15 Tuesday. Soyinka. *Dance of the Forests*.  
 3/17 Thursday. Gordimer. *My Son's Story*.  
 3/22 Tuesday. Gordimer. *My Son's Story*.  
 3/24 Thursday. Gordimer. *My Son's Story*.

***Spring Break.***

4/5 Tuesday. Cortázar. *Blow-up and Other Stories*.  
 4/7 Thursday. Cortázar. *Blow-up and Other Stories*.  
 4/12 Tuesday. Cortázar. *Blow-up and Other Stories*.  
 4/14 Thursday. Dazai. *The Setting Sun*.  
 4/19 Tuesday. Dazai. *The Setting Sun*.  
 4/21 Thursday. Dazai. *The Setting Sun*.  
 4/26 Tuesday. Rhys. *Wide Sargasso Sea*.  
 4/28 Thursday. Rhys. *Wide Sargasso Sea*.  
 5/3 Tuesday. Rhys. *Wide Sargasso Sea*.  
 5/5 Thursday. Chu T'ien-Wen. *Notes of a Desolate Man*.  
 5/10 Tuesday. Chu T'ien-Wen. *Notes of a Desolate Man*.  
 5/12 Thursday. Chu T'ien-Wen. *Notes of a Desolate Man*.  
 5/19 Thursday. Final paper due by 5 pm in Rice 28.