

Fall/Winter 2017-2018

AP/EN 4170 6.0A (Y)

Modernism/Postmodernism

Course Director:

Marie-Christine Leps
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Delivery Format:

Seminar

Time:

Wednesdays 2:30-5:30pm

Description:

Between the death of Queen Victoria and the death of the author, what are the conditions of possibility for modernist and postmodernist literature and culture? What political, social, formal, intellectual, scientific, and technological developments must be factored into productive encounters with the literature of “the new”? This course begins to investigate such questions as they have been elaborated in literary and theoretical texts in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Art, music, film, and architecture form an integral part of our inquiries, in order to experience the new anew, from crossdisciplinary, transnational, and World Literature perspectives. By the end of the year, we will have worked with texts that require readers to rethink the truths they take for granted, and studied various ways of analyzing and coming to terms with them. As part of our world literature perspective this year, we will have the opportunity to exchange online with students from Dadaab who are currently taking York courses, to discuss both *City of Thorns* (non-fiction book about life in one of the world’s largest refugee camp) and World War I poetry at the end of the first term.

Category:

B

Area:

N/A

Period:

N/A

Historical Requirement:

N/A

Requirements:

Two 15-minute oral seminar presentations (5% each), submitted in essay form (1350 words each, 15%); fall term essay (1500 words, 20%); winter term research essay (2000 words, 25%); short responses to assigned readings throughout the year and participation in general discussion (15%).

Reading List:

Paul Auster, *City of Glass* (Penguin); Joseph Conrad, *The Secret Agent* (Penguin); Don De Lillo, *White Noise* (Penguin USA); William Faulkner, *Light in August* (Vintage); Nikolai Gogol, "Diary of a Madman"; Kazuo Ishiguro, *Remains of the Day* (Key Porter); Guy de Maupassant, "Letter of a Madman"; Michael Ondaatje: *In the Skin of a Lion and Anil's Ghost* (Vintage Canada); Ben Rawlence, *City of Thorns* (Vintage); Erich Maria Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front* (Ballantine Books); Art Spiegelman: *Maus I & II*; Gertrude Stein, *Three Lives* (Simon and Shuster); Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway* (OUP World's Classics); Lu Xun, "A Madman's Diary."

Short stories, poems, essays, and theoretical texts will be assembled in two course kits.

Open To:

Yr 4 Honours