



Symbiosis College of Arts and Commerce

(An Autonomous College under Savitribai Phule Pune University)
Senapati Bapat Road, Pune (Maharashtra) 411 004.

M.A. ENGLISH (SEMESTER – 3)

Twentieth Century Literature (1900 - 1945)

A Course Outline

This course would focus on British and other European literatures of the first half of the twentieth century. Students would be introduced to literary modernism as a concept as well as a movement through a study of representative modernist texts. A context-study of the beginning and subsequent developments in literary modernism would enhance the students' understanding of the particular socio-cultural forces at work at the time and the ways it impacted the contemporary literary texts. The study of the texts would cover all the genres - poetry, drama, novel, short story and non-fictional prose. Through critical and analytical readings of the texts students are meant to develop an appreciation of the aesthetics and literary conventions of modernism.

Unit 1 - Poetry

T. S. Eliot – *The Waste Land*

Ezra Pound - 'In a Station of the Metro', 'And the Days Are Not Full Enough'

W. B. Yeats – 'Wild Swans at Coole', 'Easter, 1916', 'The Second Coming'

Rainer Maria Rilke – 'The Waking'

Wilfred Owen – 'Strange Meeting', 'Futility'

Siegfried Sassoon – 'Suicide in the Trenches'

W.H. Auden – 'Out on the lawn I lie in bed', 'Musee des Beaux Arts'

Paul Valery – 'The Spinner'

Unit 2 – Drama

Luigi Pirandello – *Six Characters in Search of an Author*

J.M. Synge – *The Playboy of the Western World*

Unit 3 – Novels

Albert Camus – *The Plague*

Virginia Woolf – *To the Lighthouse*

Unit 4 – Short Stories

James Joyce – ‘Araby’

Katherine Mansfield – ‘The Doll’s House’

Unit 5 – Non-fictional prose

T.S.Eliot – ‘Hamlet and His Problems’

Herbert Read – *The Meaning of Art* (excerpts)

Suggested Readings:

- Bell, Michael. *Literature, Modernism and Myth: Belief and Responsibility in the Twentieth Century*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997.
- Bell, Michael, ed. *The Context of English Literature, 1900 – 1930*. London: Methuen, 1980.
- Bradbury, Malcolm, and James McFarlane, eds. *Modernism 1890 – 1930*. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1976.
- Naremore, James, and Patrick Brantlinger. *Modernity and Mass Culture*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1991.
- Nicholls, Peter. *Modernisms: A Literary Guide*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995.
- Schwartz, Sanford. *The Matrix of Modernism: Pound, Eliot and Early Twentieth Century Thought*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1985.
- Levenson, Michael ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Modernism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999.
- Bell, Michael. *D.H. Lawrence: Language and Being*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991.
- Hynes, Samuel. *The Auden Generation*. London: Bodley Head, 1976.
- Levenson, Michael. *Modernism and the Fate of Individuality: Character and Novelistic Form from Conrad to Woolf*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991.
- Perkins, David. *A History of Modern Poetry: From the 1890s to the High Modernist Mode*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1987.
- Perkins, David. *A History of Modern Poetry: Modernism and After*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1987.
- Longenbach, James. *Stone Cottage: Pound, Yeats, and Modernism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1988.
- Litz, A. Walton, ed. *Eliot in His Time*. Princeton: Princeton University press, 1973.
- Gilman, Richard. *The Making of Modern Drama*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1974.

- Quigley, Austin E. *The Modern stage and Other Worlds*. New York and London: Methuen, 1985.
- Clark, Suzanne. *Sentimental Modernism: Women Writers and the Revolution of the Word*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1991.
- Ardis, Ann. *New Women, New Novels: Feminism and Early Modernism*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1990.
- Felski, Rita. *The Gender of Modernity*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1996.
- Gilbert, Sandra, and Susan Gubar. *No Man's Land, Vol. 1, The War of the Words*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1989.
- Rose, Phyllis. *Woman of Letters: A Life of Virginia Woolf*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1978.
- Reed, Christopher, ed. *Not at Home: The Suppression of Domesticity in Modern Art and Architecture*. London and New York: Thames and Hudson, 1993.