

American Modernisms

First Session: November 18, 11:30–13, Room 17.13

‘Modernism’ as a period term in the singular seems to suggest a transnational corpus of ‘texts’ following a similar aesthetic stance. In fact, there are many modernisms – in the (visual) arts and in literature, of an avantgardist or a ‘high modernist’ character, of a ‘continental’ or Hispanic American variety. With regard to ‘American’ literature (that is, the literature of the United States), a major fault line is between expatriate and ‘homemade’ versions of modernism, which originate from different geographical centers, work on different subject matter and follow divergent aesthetic trajectories. We will explore the variety of American modernisms (Paris-centred expatriate literature, Southern Modernism, the Harlem renaissance, etc.), paying particular attention to the wide variety of modes and genres ‘modernist’ writers worked in.

Expert groups will cover the modernist (in one way or another) texts on the GymPO/M.Ed. reading lists (among them ones by Fitzgerald, Hemingway, W. C. Williams, McKay, O’Neill) and their cultural context(s), while I will try to supplement this necessarily sketchy selection with various other examples, particularly ones that challenge generic conventions (by, for instance, Stein, Barnes, H. Crane, Faulkner). Please read the reading list texts beforehand (if you haven’t done so already).

Required Texts:

Reading list texts (any edition). Other texts will be provided in digital form.

Types of Degree/Modules:

BA-Lehramt: Modules 59480, Textformen; 59500, Intermediality

BA-Anglistik: Modules 42630, Textual Forms; 42640, Textual Competence; 42620, Interculturality; 42650, Intermediality

Lerhamt (GymPO): Modules 27190, Textformen; 27230, Interculturality; 27250, Textual Competence; 27270, Intermediality

MA-Ed: Modul 70830, Interculturality

MA-Anglistik: Modules 23380, Textual Competence; 23400, Interculturality; 23430, Wahlmodul Lit.wiss. Text and Theory; 23450, Current Methodologies I

MA-EASEL: Modules 101460, Literature and Culture after 1900

M.Sc. Technikpädagogik: Modules 50060, Interculturality; 50070, Textformen

M.Sc. Wirtschaftspädagogik (Uni Hohenheim): Module 6671-510, Kernmodul 1 Cultural Studies
Module 27221, Examenskolloquium GymPO

Module 27390, Kolloquium KLA Bf

Module 70850, M.A. Ed., Linguistic and Literary Competence / 70852 Textual Competence

M.Sc. Technikpädagogik: Modul 41030, Kolloquium

Lecturer: Guido Isekenmeier

(Office Hours: Wednesday, 14–15:30, @<https://unistuttgart.webex.com/join/guido.isekenmeier>)

Course Schedule

Session / Date	Topic	Reading List Text(s)	Other Text(s)
I / Nov 18	Introduction: American Modernisms	Williams, "The Red Wheelbarrow"; McKary, "If We Must Die"	Pound, "In a Station of the Metro"
II / Nov 25	The Modernist Long Poem	-	Eliot, <i>The Waste Land</i>
III / Dec 2	The Modernist Long Poem (cont.)	-	Williams, <i>Paterson</i> (excerpt) Crane, <i>The Bridge</i> (excerpt)
IV / Dec 9	Expatriate Modernism	-	Stein, "What is English Literature"; Barnes, <i>Nightwood</i> (excerpt)
V / Dec 16	Expatriate Modernism (cont.)	Fitzgerald, <i>The Great Gatsby</i> ; Hemingway, "Hills Like White Elephants"	Fitzgerald, "Babylon Revisited"; Hemingway, <i>The Sun Also Rises</i> (excerpt)
Christmas Break			
VI / Jan 13	Modernist Theatre	O'Neill, <i>The Emperor Jones</i>	-
Jan 20	CANCELLED		
VII / Jan 27	Southern Modernism	-	Faulkner, <i>The Sound and the Fury</i> (excerpt)
VIII / Feb 3	The Harlem Renaissance	-	Locke (ed.), <i>The New Negro</i> (selection)
IX / Feb 10	Wrap-Up: Essay and Exam Preparation	-	-

Course Requirements:

- Active Participation (incl. reading the texts, regular attendance)
- Presentation on a Reading List Text (ca. 20-30 mins)
- Term Paper (for Hauptseminar) / Oral Exam (for Kolloquium)