

Emerging Modernisms and Beyond Section 01

ENGL 70

Spring 2025 In Person 3 Unit(s) 01/23/2025 to 05/12/2025 Modified 01/22/2025

Course Information

Course Description

This course is designed as a thematic introduction to the field of Modernist Literature. Our course will study the literary and cultural productions of late 19th and early 20th century literature and art. As theorist Jacques Derrida once stated, "Everything is a text." Our course takes this guiding principle of 20th/ 21st century theory as a fact. Thus, the course will not only read exemplary fiction, poetry, and drama of the recent past, we will also focus on the seminal visual texts of the Literary Modernists, the collage and photomontage work of the Dadaist movement. The critical study of these cultural texts will show how value systems, beliefs, and ideologies function and are products to be read; ultimately, the course will ask you to see the world as text and ask you to question the embedded narratives of race, gender, ethnicity in film, fashion, music, and art.

In our course, you will be introduced to Marxist, psychoanalytic, deconstructive and critical discourses. These theories are themselves necessary and required to fully understand the development of literature and text in our contemporary society; these theories themselves are some of the most seminal texts in modern and contemporary literature. The readings will require your attention and willingness to engage different and, often, challenging perspectives. In addition, not only will we be theoretically analyzing text, we will create work with an understanding how this work comments, critiques, and creates the literatures of the contemporary era.

Lecture

Tuesday/Thursday, 1:30pm PST – 2:45pm PST

Boccardo Business Center 130

Course Description and Requisites

Exploration of Modernist and twentieth century writings. Class engages literary text, literary history, and historical events that shape the literature of the period.

Prerequisite(s): ENGL 1A.

Letter Graded

Classroom Protocols

Course Format: In-person

While an in-person seminar meeting will regularly occur, requiring a computer and internet connectivity, students can also expect various classes to also contain an asynchronous component. I will be regularly assigning small group work and asking you to meet with me on Zoom one-on-one to check in about your participation and writing. Our class will be employing Canvas throughout the course.

Program Information

The following statement has been adopted by the Department of English for inclusion in all syllabi: In English Department Courses, instructors will comment on and grade the quality of student writing as well as the quality of ideas being conveyed. All student writing should be distinguished by correct grammar and punctuation, appropriate diction and syntax, and well-organized paragraphs. The Department of English reaffirms its commitment to the differential grading scale as defined in the SJSU Catalog ("The Grading System").

Grades issued must represent a full range of student performance:

- A = excellent;
- B = above average;
- C = average;
- D = below average;
- F = failure.

Within any of the letter grade ranges (e.g. B+/B/B-), the assignment of a +(plus) or -(minus) grade will reflect stronger (+) or weaker (-) completion of the goals of the assignment.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)

Upon successful completion of an undergraduate degree program in the Department of English and Comparative Literature, students will be able to:

1. Read closely in a variety of forms, styles, structures, and modes, and articulate the value of close reading in the study of literature, creative writing, or rhetoric.
2. Show familiarity with major literary works, genres, periods, and critical approaches to British, American, and World Literature.
3. Write clearly, effectively, and creatively, and adjust writing style appropriately to the content, the context, and nature of the subject.

4. Develop and carry out research projects, and locate, evaluate, organize, and incorporate information effectively.
5. Articulate the relations among culture, history, and texts, including structures of power.

Department Information:

Department Name: English and Comparative Literature

Department Office: FO 102

Department Website: www.sjsu.edu/english (<https://www.sjsu.edu/english>)

Department email: english@sjsu.edu (<mailto:english@sjsu.edu>)

Department phone number: 408-924-4425

Course Materials

Texts/Readings (pdf *samples* will be scanned & on CANVAS, however, most of our reading will be online)

- *A Physical Journal/Daybook*
- *Course Readings: on Canvas as PDFs or Links.*

There will also be handouts in class—all required readings must be brought to class.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Participation: while there may be lectures, the course will be organized as a single continuous discussion requiring everyone to voice their opinion. Please be in touch with me if you are going to miss a class.

The quality of your class participation will be judged through the following: your effort at completing short assignments and, as necessary, sharing them; the effort you put into responding to the workshopped writing of your peers and your willingness to share your thoughts with the workshop as a whole; the effort you bring to reading critically; and, finally, how you contributed to our seminar's discussions.

All required readings, must be brought to class.

In class, you are being asked to respond to each other and to questions raised in class: I WILL NOT TOLERATE ANY DISRESPECTFUL CONVERSATION OF ANY MANNER WHETHER IN CLASS OR ONLINE.

Participation is essential to this course: we will work both in large and small groups.

REGARDING AI: There is a place for AI, but not in this class. English 70 is designed to develop students' abilities to think and write critically about literary texts. To that end, the use of any artificial intelligence tools, including but not limited to ChatGPT and Grammarly, is expressly forbidden. All graded student work is submitted to *Turnitin*, which flags AI above 20%. Any student work that is flagged with an AI score above 20% will be considered a violation of SJSU's academic code and result in a minimum penalty of zero for the assignment in question.

Your class participation will be assessed as follows:

- A: Regular, helpful questions and comments that demonstrate full preparation for class meetings. Active, positive participation in all classroom discussions and activities. Conformity to all course policies as stated in this syllabus.
- B: Occasional, pertinent questions and responses; good listening. Conformity to all course policies as stated in this syllabus.
- C: Infrequent, tangential questions or comments; attentive. Conformity to all course policies as stated in this syllabus.
- D: Inconsistent conformity to policies stated in this syllabus; disengaged from discussion; not prepared for class.
- F: Regularly absent, physically or mentally; failure to contribute meaningfully to the classroom's learning community; repeated violations of classroom policies.

Students are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to review the course calendar in light of their other commitments. The instructor will determine on a case-by-case basis whether or not an out-ofclass commitment merits special consideration.

Reading Like a Writer: during the semester you may be required to pair up with a colleague to present some opening thoughts on the day's reading. Both of you must speak/present. Both of you will receive the same grade toward extra credit. A good discussion will include the following:

1. Introduction to the Author—Biography, Important Notes, Etc.

2. CONCISE Summary of the assigned reading
3. A close-reading that pays attention to a SPECIFIC passage of text and explicates the writing for significance of language, imagery, tone, etc. I will assign one such technique or point of emphasis; you must choose another interesting feature of the reading.
4. A discussion of the readings significance, with special attention to the deeper questions the events and reflections prompt.

You must prepare a visual aid for this presentation. You may make a PowerPoint presentation. I will be evaluating these Presentations for their depth and sophistication, your abilities to engage the class, your speaking dynamics—volume, clarity, rate, etc., and your overall professionalism.

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

✓ Grading Information

Criteria

Grading Information

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>A plus</i>	<i>96 to 100%</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>93 to 95%</i>
<i>A minus</i>	<i>90 to 92%</i>
<i>B plus</i>	<i>86 to 89 %</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>83 to 85%</i>
<i>B minus</i>	<i>80 to 82%</i>
<i>C plus</i>	<i>76 to 79%</i>

<i>C</i>	73 to 75%
<i>C minus</i>	70 to 72%
<i>D plus</i>	66 to 69%
<i>D</i>	63 to 65%
<i>D minus</i>	60 to 62%

- 35% **Final Paper**
- 30% **Two Short Papers**
- 15% **In-Class Presentation**
- 20% **Participation** (including class discussion, preparation, attendance,

class prompts, etc.)

Grades given conform to the English Department and university grading policy. The Department of English is committed to the differential grading scale as defined in the official SJSU Catalog (“The Grading System”). Grades issued must represent a full range of student performance: A = excellent; B = above average; C = average; D = below average; F = failure.

Department of English and Comparative Literature Student Learning Goals

This course supports several of the English Department’s Student Learning Goals. The Department of English and Comparative Literature seeks to foster the intellectual development of its majors by encouraging study of literature and writing—whether creative, technical, or other professional writing. The Department strives to make its majors familiar with a wide range of works of British, American, and World literature, including folk and popular forms; and with the nature of the canon and of canon-formation, including issues of culture, history, race, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance,

counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule

English 70 Emerging Modernisms and Beyond, Spring 2025

(As the course progresses, we may get off schedule--this is natural--as such, our daily assignments may be revised as necessary with fair notice given by email or in class). All "PDF" readings will be available on Canvas.

Please be sure to have completed the assigned reading **before** that day's class.

WEEK ONE:	First Day of Class: Course Overview, Introductions, Objectives
Jan. 23	Introduction: 1. Syllabus and Assignments 2. Infinite and Finite Games
WEEK TWO:	What is Modernism
Jan. 28	Read: · Imagist Manifesto · William Carlos Williams, SELECTIONS ·
Jan. 30	Read: Imagism · HD, SELECTIONS

WEEK THREE: Feb. 4	Read: Imagism · Ezra Pound, SELECTIONS
Feb. 6	Read: Eliot · T.S. Eliot, "The Lovesong of J. Alfred Prufrock"
WEEK FOUR: Feb. 11	Read: Surrealism · Manifesto · selections
Feb. 13	Read: Surrealism · selections
WEEK FIVE: Feb. 18	Read: Dadaist Forms · Manifesto · selections
Feb. 20	Read: Hannah Hoch

WEEK SIX: Feb. 25	READ: Gertrude Stein, TENDER BUTTONS
Feb. 27	READ: Mina Loy, "Feminist Manifesto" Mina Loy, "Songs to Joannes"

WEEK SEVEN: Mar. 4	READ: Nancy Cunard, "Parallax"
Mar. 6	READ: Elsa Von Freytag-Loringhoven, SELECTIONS
WEEK EIGHT: Mar. 11	Writing Workshop: MLA Format and Citations Rules
Mar. 13	<i>Harlem Renaissance</i> READ: CLAUDE MCKAY, SELECTIONS
WEEK NINE: Mar. 18	<i>Harlem Renaissance</i> READ: ANNE SPENCER, SELECTIONS
Mar. 20	Harlem Renaissance READ: LANGSTON HUGHES, SELECTIONS
WEEK TEN: Mar. 25	Harlem Renaissance READ: ZORA NEALE HURSTON, SELECTIONS
Mar. 27.	Modernist Cinema
WEEK ELEVEN: Apr. 1	Spring Recess No Classes
Apr. 3	Spring Recess No Classes
WEEK TWELVE: Apr. 8	Modernist Cinema
Apr. 10	The Final Paper

WEEK THIRTEEN: Apr. 15	Novel: Nathaniel West <i>Miss Lonelyhearts</i>
Apr. 17	Novel: Nathaniel West <i>Miss Lonelyhearts</i>
WEEK FOURTEEN: Apr. 22	Novel: Nathaniel West <i>Miss Lonelyhearts</i>
Apr. 24	Novel: Nathaniel West <i>Miss Lonelyhearts</i>
WEEK FIFTEEN: Apr. 29	Novel: Nathaniel West <i>Miss Lonelyhearts</i>
May 1	Novel: Nathaniel West <i>Miss Lonelyhearts</i>
Last Week: May 6	Class Conferences
May 8 Last Day	Class Conferences

Final essay is DUE, by end of day, of the day OUR FINAL IS SCHEDULED