

ENGL W4935y  
C01 80 Claremont Ave

## Transnational Modernism

TR 4:10-5:25

Prof. Victoria Rosner  
613a Philosophy Hall  
Office hours T/R 3-4 and by appointment

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This course surveys emerging approaches to thinking about the transnationalism of modernist literature. Looking beyond a national-literature approach to modernism, we will explore transnational affiliations and imaginations in modernist literature, consider modernism's relation to imperialism and the project of decolonization, and think broadly about modernism's politics and political agency. We will discuss works by writers whose modernist practices originate outside of the United States and western Europe as well as writers more traditionally associated with Anglo-American modernism. Ours will be a "long modernism," expanding well past the traditional boundary of WWII; the implications and logic of this choice will be a matter for our discussion and debate. We will consider a range of topics and issues, including the autonomy of the intellectual, resistance to war and fascism, the internationalism of the avant-garde, cosmopolitanism, and the home in the world.

### Class schedule:

Jan 20 Introductions

#### Exiles and Intellectuals

Jan 22 Eliot, The Waste Land

Jan 27 Eliot continued. Benjamin, "The Author as Producer"

Jan 29 Joyce, "The Dead" (Project Gutenberg)

Gramsci, "The Formation of the Intellectuals"

Feb 3 Dangarembga, Nervous Conditions

Feb 5 Dangarembga continued

#### Internationalism of the Avant-Garde

Feb 10 Breton, Surrealist Manifestoes

Césaire, "Notebook of a Return to the Native Land"

Feb 12 Carrington, Down Below

Feb 17 Lewis, Blast II

Marinetti, "The Founding and Manifesto of Futurism 1909"

Feb 19 Lewis continued

#### The Spanish Civil War

Feb 24 Woolf, Three Guineas

Feb 26 Woolf continued

Mar 3 Orwell, Homage to Catalonia

Mar 5 Orwell continued

Mar 10 Poetry of the Spanish Civil War (selections)

Mar 12 Midterm  
Mar 17 Spring break  
Mar 19 Spring break

### **The Home and the World**

Mar 24 Tagore, The Home and the World  
Mar 26 Tagore continued  
Mar 31 Lessing, The Grass is Singing  
Apr 2 Lessing continued  
Apr 7 Rhys, Wide Sargasso Sea  
Apr 9 Rhys continued

### **Postcolonial Positions**

Apr 14 Fanon, The Wretched of the Earth (selections)  
Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, "On the Abolition of the English Department"  
Apr 16 Kincaid, A Small Place  
Apr 21 Naipaul, The Enigma of Arrival  
Apr 23 Naipaul continued. Derek Walcott, "Midsummer, England."  
Apr 28 tba  
Apr 30 tba

### **Required texts:**

Carrington, Down Below  
Dangarembga, Nervous Conditions  
Eliot, The Waste Land  
Kincaid, A Small Place  
Lessing, The Grass is Singing  
Lewis, Blast I  
Naipaul, The Enigma of Arrival  
Orwell, Homage to Catalonia  
Rhys, Wide Sargasso Sea  
Tagore, The Home and the World  
Woolf, Three Guineas

Books are on order at Book Culture. Articles are posted on Courseworks, except where indicated.

**Undergraduate requirements:**

- Midterm exam (identifications and essay questions)
- Four short papers (about two pages each). You can choose when you write these papers, but two of them must be submitted before March 12<sup>th</sup>. These papers are designed to help you engage with the texts we are discussing in class, so they must be submitted prior to the class devoted to the text you are writing about – no late papers are permitted.
- Class presentation (10 minutes). Topics to be discussed in class.

Each of these assignments will count equally toward your grade. Attendance and participation will be factored in as well. You are required to attend class. If you miss a class, please notify me about the reason for your absence.

**Graduate requirements:**

- Class presentation (10 minutes). Topics to be discussed in class.  
Plus one of the following:
- Option one: Three papers of about five pages in length on the class readings. Each paper must be submitted prior to the discussion of the text you are writing about and two of the papers must be submitted by April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Option two: A 15-page paper, due on the last day of class.

If you choose option one, each of the papers will count equally toward your grade. Attendance and participation will be factored in as well. You are required to attend class. If you miss a class, please notify me about the reason for your absence.