

English 431A
Modernist Poetry
Spring 2023

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Course Description:

In a poetics marked above all by invention, a new generation of poets experimented with literary form in ways that demanded new ways of reading. At stake in these innovations, as these artists saw them, were fundamental questions of feeling, thought, attitude and perspective under

“modern” conditions of experience. With an emphasis on careful reading, we will study their poems as unique aesthetic interventions into the matter of experience and also inquiries into the broader cultural and social concerns of modernism, such as questions of sexuality and gender.

Assignments:

3 1-page analyses	15%
2 four-page analyses	45%
three-hour final exam	30%
8 to 10 quick quizzes	10%

Text:

Coursepack including works by Ezra Pound, Gertrude Stein, Langston Hughes, Lorine Niedecker, Marianne Moore, and William Carlos Williams.

