English 201:
Introduction to Modernist Literature
Fall 2021

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Course Description:
This course explores modernist literature—including poetry, prose fiction, drama, and criticism—with an emphasis on close and careful reading. In the course of reading texts by writers such as Pound, Eliot, and Woolf, we will consider what it means to be “modern” and why writers felt it necessary to experiment with literary form in order to address modern experience in light of questions and challenges raised by contemporaneous intellectual movements such as psychoanalysis, social movements such as feminism, and historical events such as the two World Wars.

Assignments:
- 3 two-page analyses  35%
- in-class midterm  20%
- three-hour final exam  30%
- 8 to 10 quizzes  15%

Texts (coursepack):
- Henry James, “The Beast in the Jungle”
- Samuel Beckett, Endgame
- Marianne Moore, “Marriage”
- Mina Loy, “The Feminist Manifesto”; “Songs to Joannes”
- Virginia Woolf, Between the Acts