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# **fIFA** Filoloxía Inglesa, Francesa e Alemana

Universidade de Vigo

*Curso de 3º ciclo*

*Programa: Filoloxía Inglesa, Francesa e Alemana*

*Curso 2006-2007*

*Créditos: 6*

*Profesorado: M. Teresa Caneda Cabrera  
Martín Urdiales Shaw*



## **MODERN LITERATURE AND THE CITY**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

As the title indicates, the course aims to examine the impact of urban experience in the modern fiction written in English. Our point of departure will be to consider how, at the turn of the twentieth century, the emergence of the city radically reconfigured time and space and influenced, in an unprecedented way, the writers and artists' perception of what was now understood as "modern" experience. In this respect, our class discussions will focus on the relationship between the rise of the metropolis and the development of Anglo-American modernism. We will explore the city's effect on the form and content of a variety of literary texts from the first decades of the twentieth century.

Through their explosive growth, cities became the rich nerve-centres of modern culture: the meeting-place for exciting new art-forms but also the urban scenario of human alienation. In this sense, we will consider the relationship between the emergence of modern urban spaces and the development of modern literature, not only in terms of the literary representations of the city, but also from the perspective of how urban

experience affects the appearance of innovative artistic and literary discourses attempting to represent the world.

Some of the relevant issues that we will introduce in our class discussions are: the influence of technology and industrialisation, the impact of migration and expatriation and the emergence of new reactions to traditional concepts of self and identity. Special attention will be paid to the ways in which phenomena like cinema, journalism, advertising, urban architecture, transportation, travel and exile, as well as the emergence of new reactions to former understandings of race, gender and class, become key aspects of modernist writing.

Course materials include several novels and short stories listed as “required readings”, as well a selection of poems, critical essays and films. Given the interdisciplinary nature of the seminar, there will be a special session devoted to the emergence and development of the modern city in which an architect will discuss the topic from the point of view of urban studies.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

The total final grade will be distributed as follows: final paper 50%, assignments 40%, and class participation 10%. For the first part of the course assignments will consist of: (1) an oral report of a critical essay (20%) and (2) a leading discussion of one of the required readings (20%). The final paper must follow the style guidelines of the MLA handbook, available in our library, (Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 5th ed. NY: Modern Language Association of America, 1995. Call number: FFT.001.GIB.mla) and on the web: <http://www.mla.org/>. Prior to the final session you will be given more detailed information on what is expected from you concerning the final research paper (structure, style and length).

### **REQUIRED READINGS**

Baldwin, James. “The Harlem Ghetto”. (1948)

Barnes, Djuna. “Greenwich Village As It Is.” (1916)

Cahan, Abraham. Selected fragments from *The Rise of David Levinsky*. (1917)

Conrad, Joseph. *The Secret Agent*. (1907)

Dos Passos, John. *Manhattan Transfer*. (1925)

Gold, Michael. Selected fragments from *Jews Without Money*. (1930)

Harlem Renaissance (Selected writings: 1925-1930)

Joyce, James. *Dubliners* (1914) and selected fragments from *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (1916) and *Ulysses*. (1922)

Mansfield, Katherine. “The Little Governess” (1915), “Pictures.” (1919)

Rhys, Jean. *Good Morning, Midnight*. (1939)

Richardson, Dorothy. Selected fragments from *Pilgrimage*. (1913-1935)

Roth, Henry. *Call It Sleep*. (1934)

Sandburg, Carl. Selected "Chicago Poems" (1916-1922)

Sinclair, Upton. Selected fragments from *The Jungle*. (1906)

Smedley, Agnes. "A Moving Picture of Shanghai." (1929)

West, Nathaniel. *The Day of the Locust*. (1939)

Woolf, Virginia. *The Waves*. (1931)

Wright, Richard. *Native Son*. (1940)

## **FILMS**

*Berlin, Symphony of a City*. (Walther Ruttmann, 1927)

*Metropolis*. (Fritz Lang, 1927)

*Modern Times* (Charles Chaplin, 1936)

*Koyaanisqatsi: Life Out of Balance*. (G. Reggio, 1983)

## **SECONDARY READINGS**

For the sake of our class discussions and individual reports, students will be assigned a selection of extracts from different critical works (copies may be purchased in advance at the photocopy service). The following list indicates the bibliographical sources from which some of our selected readings will be extracted. Other relevant titles are also included here.

## **BOOKS**

Balshaw, Maria and Liam Kennedy, eds. *Urban Space and Representation*. London: Pluto, 2000.

Begnal, Michael, ed. *Joyce and the City: the Significance of Place*. New York: Syracuse UP, 2002.

Benjamin, Walter. *The Arcades Project*. Cambridge: Harvard UP, 2002.

Bradbury, Malcolm and James MacFarlane. *Modernism*. London: Penguin, 1991.

Brooker, Peter. *Modernity and Metropolis: Writing, Film and Urban Formations*. New York: Palgrave, 2002.

Brooker Peter, and Andrew Thacker, eds. *Geographies of Modernism : Literatures, Cultures, Spaces*. New York: Routledge, 2005.

Brown Tindall, George and David E. Shi. *America: A Narrative History, vol. 2*. New York: Norton, 1996.

Caws, Mary Ann, ed. *City Images: Perspectives from Literature, Philosophy and Film*. Amsterdam: Gordon and Breach, 1991.

Clarke, Graham. *The American City*. New York: Helm, 1997.

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Clontz, Ted L. *Wilderness City : the Post World War II American Urban Novel from Algren to Wideman*. New York: Routledge, 2005.

Donald, James. *Imagining the Modern City*. Minneapolis: U of Minnesota P, 1999.

Ford, Madox Ford. *The Soul of London*. London: Everyman, 2001.

Henkin, David M. *City Reading*. New York: Columbia UP, 1998.

Hurm, Gerd. *Fragmented Urban Images: The American City in Modern Fiction from Stephen Crane to Thomas Pynchon*. New York : Peter Lang, 1991

Källtorp, I. Elander and O. Ericsson, eds. *Cities in Transformation: Social and Symbolic Change of Urban Space*. Aldershot: Ashgate, 1997.

Legates, Richard T. *The City Reader*. London: Routledge, 2003.

Lehan, Richard. *The City in Literature: An Intellectual and Cultural History*. Berkeley: U of California P, 1998.

Lombardo, Patrizia. *Cities, Words and Images: From Poe to Scorsese*. Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003.

Onega, Susana and John Stotesbury, eds. *London in Literature: Visionary Mappings of the Metropolis*. Heidelberg: C. Winter, 2002.

Pike, Burton. *Image of the City in Modern Literature*. New Jersey: Princeton, UP. 1981.

Rotella, Carlo. *October Cities*. Berkeley: University of California P, 1998.

Rovira, J.C y José Ramón Navarro, eds. *Literatura y espacio urbano*. Alicante: Fundación CAM, 1993.

Shiel, Mark. *Screening the City*. London: Verso, 2003.

Schlör, Joachim. *Nights in the Big City*. London: Reaktion, 1998.

Sizemore, Christine Wick. *A Female Vision of the City*. Knoxville: The U of Tennessee P, 1989.

Spurr, David. *Joyce and the Scene of Modernity*. Gainesville: U of Florida P, 2002.

Williams, Raymond. *The Country and the City*. London: Chatto, 1973.

Yoshinobu Hakutani and Robert Butler. *The City in African-American Literature*. Madison: Fairleigh Dickinson UP, 1995.

### JOURNALS \*

*American Quarterly*. Johns Hopkins

*Comparative Literature Studies*: Urbana: U of Illinois

*James Joyce Quarterly*. U of Tulsa

*Journal of Modern Literature*. Philadelphia: Temple U

*Modern Fiction Studies*. Johns Hopkins

*Modernism-Modernity*. Johns Hopkins

*PMLA*. Modern Language Association of America

*Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*. U of Tulsa

*Studies in the Novel*. North Texas State University

\* For electronic journals check the *LION* (Literature Online) database available in our library.