Literature and Modernity since 1900: Secondary Bibliography, Autumn Semester.

A good deal of secondary material – critical writing, cultural theory, etc – already appears on the seminar schedule for discussion week-by-week. Below are lists of further background or critical material which may be helpful in studying modernism and modernity. The first list is of general studies, briefly described, and likely to be found either in the University Library, often in multiple copies, or in Blackwells bookshop. The second list is of more specialist studies, their remit usually indicated clearly enough in the titles. Some of these are held only in the National Library.

You’re likely in your own work to come across good and useful books which might be added to the lists below, which are not at all exhaustive – there’s a huge critical literature in the area. When you do come across anything useful, let me know, with publishing details and a line or two of description, and I’ll make additions to the material below.

1) Some general studies of Modernist writing:

**Ann L. Ardis, Modernism and Cultural Conflict 1880-1922 (Cambridge University Press, 2002).**

Explores the cultural politics of modernist writing, including that of Ezra Pound, T.S.Eliot, James Joyce and D.H.Lawrence, situating it in the broader contexts of popular and mainstream culture of the late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century centuries, and showing how it achieved its aesthetic and academic prominence.

**Tim Armstrong, Modernism: A Cultural History (Polity, 2005).**

A very strong literary and cultural survey, showing the ways in which modernist literature engaged with the modern world. Contains chapters on a range of topics, including modernism and time; modernism, mass culture and the market; modernist subjectivities; science and technology; race and empire.

**David Ayers, Modernism: A Short Introduction (Blackwell, 2004).**

A clear and helpful guide to Anglo-American modernist writing, with chapters on authors including T.S.Eliot, Virginia Woolf, D.H.Lawrence, Wallace Stevens, H.D., Nancy Cunard, Wyndham Lewis and Mina Loy.


Situates the modernist writing of Joyce, Woolf, Eliot and others in their historical contexts and in the contexts of non-modernist writings across a range of genres, including popular and children’s literature, war poetry and fiction, the short story, drama and the realist novel.

Remains a valuable guide to European modernisms, with chapters on the modern metropolis and modern drama, and with discussion of writers including Brecht, Joyce, Kafka, Strindberg and Yeats.

**David Bradshaw (ed.), A Concise Companion to Modernism (Blackwell, 2003).**

A collection of wide-ranging essays on modern culture and ‘modern knowledge’, on topics including the life sciences, eugenics, anthropology, Bergsonism, psychoanalysis, language, technology, politics, physics, publishing and reading.

**Mary Ann Gillies and Aurelea Mahood (eds.), Modernist Literature: An Introduction (Edinburgh UP, 2007).**

Helpful study, looking at British literature 1900-1945 and focusing on the short story, gender and sexuality in the 1900s; poetry, war and technology in the 1910s; the novel of the 1920s; and documentary in the 1930s.

**Jane Goldman, Modernism 1910-1945: Image to Apocalypse (Palgrave, 2004).**

A vivid exploration of the rise and development of modernist and avant-garde literatures and theories from Imagism to the Apocalypse movement. Contains discussion of a range of writers, including Ezra Pound, T.S.Eliot, W.B.Yeats, James Joyce, Gertrude Stein and Virginia Woolf, as well as other modernist figures, including Nathaniel West, Alduous Huxley and the Harlem Renaissance poets.

**Vassiliki Kolocotroni, Jane Goldman and Olga Taxidou, Modernism: An Anthology of Sources and Documents (Edinburgh University Press, 1998).**

Invaluable anthology of texts and documents relating to modernist literature and culture and to European avant-garde movements and manifestos – described elsewhere on Learn as a useful source of some of the background, critical and cultural theory material we read.

**Michael Levenson (ed), The Cambridge Companion to Modernism (Cambridge University Press, 1999).**

Strong collection of essays, exploring modernism in fiction, poetry, drama, the visual arts and film.

**Pericles Lewis, The Cambridge Introduction to Modernism (Cambridge University Press, 2007).**

Interesting and helpful survey of the art and literature of Britain, America and Europe at the beginning of the twentieth century, which also offers an overview of critical writings on modernism and its significance for current scholarship.

**Laura Marcus and Peter Nicholls (eds). The Cambridge History of Twentieth-Century English Literature (Cambridge University Press, 2005).**
The first half of this History explores a wide range of modernist writings in the contexts of modernist literary and cultural movements, the modern city and modernism and politics.


Explores the multiple dimensions of literary ‘modernism’ and avant-garde movements within a broad European context, with excellent discussion of late nineteenth-century texts.


Introduces most of the canonical writers, and the circumstances and networks in which they worked.


Wide-ranging and sometimes useful introduction to modernist fiction, with essays on writers including Woolf, Stein, Joyce, Lewis, Lawrence, Conrad, Djuna Barnes, Faulkner, Beckett and Dorothy Richardson, and topics including time, consciousness, history and the legacies of modernism in contemporary fiction.


Analyses of modernist novelists and novels, with sections on Lawrence, Woolf, Joyce, Richardson, Conrad etc, and discussions of modernism in relation to the political and economic pressures that shaped its innovations.


Explores through the concept of performance the constitutive links between anglophone modernism and the historical avant-garde. The theatres of T.S. Eliot, W.B. Yeats, Gertrude Stein, Wyndham Lewis, Auden and Isherwood are read in conjunction with the theatrical experiments of the Historical Avant-garde.


Excellent account of early twentieth-century English fiction, interweaving discussion of ‘high modernist’ texts, including Joyce’s *Ulysses*, with accounts of the broad range of popular and mainstream fictions of the period.


Very useful anthology, containing a selection of key texts relating to literary and cultural modernism. Includes primary documents on issues including modernism and the city and modernism and politics, alongside recent commentaries and theoretical statements.

Important collections of essays, published posthumously. Contains Williams’ writings on modernist drama, and on language, modernism and the modern metropolis.

2. Some more specifically-directed studies


