

## AMBEDKAR UNIVERSITY DELHI

School:	School of Letters
Programme with title:	MA English
Course Title:	<b>METROPOLIS AND MODERNITY 1</b>
Credits:	4 Credits
Course Code:	SOL2EN335
Course Coordinator	Sayandeb Chowdhury

Aim: Drawing traction from the fresh new debates, this course will look at how Modernist European poetry in early late nineteenth and twentieth century grew in response and reaction to the rapid urbanisation of Europe in late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The course will read, discuss and critically analyse how the works of major European poets during this time responded to this emerging urban modernity as it was being preserved in the feverish change of the urban landscape: the debates over territory, the political edginess, the breakdown of frames of reference, radical art movements, rapid militarisation of skies and seas, urban expansionism, sudden and total alienation of the individual and the search for a personal space in the ruthlessly impersonalising ecosystem of the cities and finally, the lure of catastrophe. The result was a sort of despair at the loss of a familiar and familial climate and imagery and the difficult and productive search for a new idiom, a new language, search most productively embedded in the extraordinary burst of poetry across the Continent. The course will discuss the period between 1855/56 (Baudelaire's first publications of poems of what to be later collected as *Paris Spleen*) to the horrors of WWII and just after.

Brief description of modules/ Main modules:

### Module 1

- *Enlightenment, modernity and Modernisms*
- *The falls of Empires, mass politics and the rise of Fascism*
- *Metropole and the flaneur, 'sight' and 'site' of the city*
- *Inter-medial Modernisms and the foundation of a new poetics*
- *The poetic 'I' and the poetic 'eye'*
- *'Reading' the city*

### Module 2: The poetry of the city | Western & Southern Europe

- Charles Baudelaire, selections from *Flowers of Evil & Paris Spleen*
- Rainer Maria Rilke, selections from *The Notebooks of Malte Laurids Brigge*
- Fernando Pessoa, selections from *The Book of Disquiet & Collected Poems*
- Federico Garcia Lorca, selections from *The Poet in New York*
- F Marinetti, selections from *Anthology of Futurist Poetry*
- Constantin Cavafy, selections from *Collected Poems*

### Module 3: The poetry of the city | Eastern Europe and Soviet Union

- Osip Mandelstam, selections from *Collected Poems*
- Tsetlana Tsatveva, selections from *Poems for Moscow*

- V Mayakovsky, selections from *Poems*
- Czeslaw Milosz, selections from *Collected Poems*
- Paul Celan, selections from *Collected Poems*

#### Module 4: The poetry of the city | England

- TS Eliot, *The Love Song of J Alfred Prufrock*  
*Wasteland*

#### Reading List

- Bradbury Malcolm and James McFarlane, eds. *Modernism 1890–1930*. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1976.
- Levenson Michael . *A Genealogy of Modernism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1984.
- Burger, Peter, *Theory of the Avant-Garde*. Trans. Michael Shaw. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1984.
- Timms Edward and David Kelley, *Unreal City: Urban Experience in Modern European in Literature & Art*, Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1985.
- Berman M, *All That is Solid Melts into Air*. London Penguin Books, 1988
- Williams, Raymond. *The Politics of Modernism: Against the New Conformists*. London: Verso, 1989.
- Lefebvre Henri, *Introduction to Modernity*, London: Verso, 1995
- Bayly C. A. *The Birth of the Modern World 1780–1914: Global Connections and Comparisons*. Oxford : Blackwell, 2004 .
- Rainey Lawrence, *Modernism: An Anthology*, London, Wiley-Blackwell. 2005.
- Rebecca L. Walkowitz, *Cosmopolitan Style: Modernism Beyond the Nation*
- Columbia University Press, 2006
- Ross Alex, *The Rest is Noise: Listening to the Twentieth Century*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007.
- Nichols Peter, *Modernism: A Literary Guide* , London, Palgrave Macmillan. 2008
- P Brooker and others (ed) *Oxford Handbook of Modernisms* , Oxford: OUP, 2010.
- Gay Peter, *Modernism: The Lure of Heresy*, New York : Norton, 2010
- Susan Stanford Friedman, *Planetary Modernisms: Provocations on Modernity Across Time*, Columbia University Press, 2015

#### Assessment

- Class Assignment
  - Med Semester
  - Term Paper
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