

# **Modernism and Literature**

An Introduction and Reader

*Edited by*  
**Mia Carter and  
Alan Warren Friedman**

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For Liz and Brian

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Date	Literary texts	Other arts	Historic contexts
1884	Henrik Ibsen, <i>The Wild Duck</i>		Foundation of Fabian Society (British Socialists); gold discovered on the Rand, South Africa (harbinger of Boer War)
1884–85			Berlin Conference and New Imperialism (the Scramble for Africa); carved up – with no native representation – all of Africa and distributed it among European nations
1886	Jean Moréas, <i>The Symbolist Manifesto</i> ; Henrik Ibsen, <i>Rosmersholm</i>		First meeting of Indian National Congress
			Statue of Liberty dedicated
1887			National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies founded in U.K.
1888	August Strindberg, <i>Miss Julie</i> ; Helena Petrovna Blavatsky, <i>The Secret Doctrine</i>		George Eastman develops "Kodak" box camera; Heinrich Hertz confirms existence of electromagnetic waves
1889			Paris Exposition (which drew 28 million visitors), for which Eiffel Tower was built
1890	Henrik Ibsen, <i>Hedda Gabler</i> ; William James, <i>Principles of Psychology</i>		Daimler produces first automobile
1891	Thomas Hardy, <i>Tess of the D'Urbervilles</i> ; Oscar Wilde, <i>Salomé</i> ; <i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i>		Free Education Act passes, U.K.
1892	Henrik Ibsen, <i>The Master Builder</i>		
1893			New Zealand becomes first nation to grant women full voting rights
1894–95			Sino-Japanese War
1894–97	<i>The Yellow Book</i>		
1894–1906			Dreyfus affair
1895	Thomas Hardy, <i>Jude the Obscure</i>		French brothers Louis and Auguste Lumière present first projected, moving pictures to a paying audience; Guglielmo Marconi invents telegraphy; Wilhelm Roentgen discovers X-rays; trials of Oscar Wilde
1896	Anton Chekhov, <i>The Seagull</i>		



# Timeline of modernisms

## TEXTS AND CONTEXTS

Date	Literary texts	Other arts	Historic contexts
1870–71			Franco-Prussian War
1872		Claude Monet, <i>Impression: soleil levant</i> ("Impression: Sunrise"), displayed in first impressionist exhibition, Paris (1874)	
1873	Arthur Rimbaud, <i>A Season in Hell</i> ; Walter Pater, <i>The Renaissance</i>		
1877		Helena Petrovna Blavatsky, <i>Isis Unveiled</i>	
1879	Henrik Ibsen, <i>A Doll's House</i>		
1881	Henry James, <i>The Portrait of a Lady</i>		
1882			Married Woman's Property Act: British women gain equal rights regarding control of private income, property, and inheritance; Cairo occupied by British troops; control of Suez Canal at issue
1883	Henrik Ibsen, <i>An Enemy of the People</i>		Ilbert Bill passes: admits Indians to Civil Service and allows Indian magistrates to judge Europeans; slavery banned throughout British Empire

## XX TIMELINE OF MODERNISMS

Date	Literary texts	Other arts	Historic contexts
1909	Ezra Pound, <i>Personae</i> ; Gertrude Stein, <i>Three Lives</i>	Filippo Marinetti, <i>The Futurist Manifesto</i>	National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) founded; plastic invented
1910	E.M. Forster, <i>Howards End</i> ; William Butler Yeats, <i>The Green Helmet and Other Poems</i>	First post- impressionist exhibition, London	Beginning of Mexican Revolution
1910–13		Bertrand Russell and Alfred North Whitehead, <i>Principia Mathematica</i>	
1910–14		Futurism	
1912	Thomas Mann, <i>Death in Venice</i>	Arnold Schönberg, <i>Pierrot Lunaire</i>	
1912–44	H.D. (Hilda Doolittle), <i>Collected Poems</i> (1983)		
1913		Igor Stravinsky, <i>The Rite of Spring</i> ; New York International Exhibition of Modern Art (the Armory Show)	Natives' Land Act, South Africa: restricts natives to certain areas
1913–27	Marcel Proust, <i>A la recherche du temps perdu</i>		
1914	James Joyce, <i>Dubliners</i> ; Franz Kafka, "In the Penal Colony"; Amy Lowell, <i>Sword Blade and Poppy Seed</i> ; W.B. Yeats, <i>Responsibilities</i>		Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to Austro-Hungarian throne leads to outbreak of World War I
1914–15	Wyndham Lewis edits <i>Blast</i>		
1914–18			World War I
1915	Ford Madox Ford, <i>The Good Soldier</i> ; Franz Kafka, <i>The Metamorphosis</i> ; D.H. Lawrence, <i>The Rainbow</i>	D.W. Griffith, <i>Birth of a Nation</i>	First transcontinental telephone call: New York to San Francisco
1915–16		Constantin Brancusi, <i>Princess X</i>	
1915–17			Armenian Genocide under Ottoman Empire (1.5 million Armenians killed)
1915–67	Dorothy Richardson, <i>Pilgrimage</i>		
1916	H.D. (Hilda Doolittle), <i>Sea Garden</i> ; James Joyce, <i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i> ; Amy Lowell, <i>Men, Women and Ghosts</i>		Easter Rising in Ireland; conscription begins in England; Albert Einstein, general theory of relativity; Margaret Sanger opens first birth control clinic in U.S., arrested for distributing contraception

Date	Literary texts	Other arts	Historic contexts
1897	Joseph Conrad, <i>The Nigger of the "Narcissus"</i> ; Henry James, <i>What Maisie Knew</i> ; Bram Stoker, <i>Dracula</i> ; H.G. Wells, <i>The Invisible Man</i>		Workmen's Compensation Act, U.K.; Magnus Hirschfield establishes Scientific-Humanitarian Committee; it later organizes a petition — signed by Rilke, Einstein, Tolstoy, Mann <i>et al.</i> — to protest Paragraph 175, a law that deemed sex between men a crime
1898	Émile Zola, <i>J'accuse</i>		Curies discover radium; Spanish–American War
1899	Joseph Conrad, <i>Heart of Darkness</i>	Sigmund Freud, <i>The Interpretation of Dreams</i> (Germany)	Great Britain signs Hague Convention establishing international rules of war
1899–1902			Boer War
1900	Joseph Conrad, <i>Lord Jim</i>		Women allowed to compete in Olympics for first time; Max Planck proposes quantum theory; Boxer Rebellion (China), suppressed by European and Japanese troops
1901			Queen Victoria dies; Robert Baden-Powell forms pro-imperialist Boy Scouts Organization
1901–10			Reign of King Edward VII
1902	Henry James, <i>The Wings of a Dove</i>		
1903	W.E.B. Du Bois, <i>The Souls of Black Folks</i> ; Henry James, <i>The Ambassadors</i> ; George Bernard Shaw, <i>Man and Superman</i> ; <i>Protocols of the Elders of Zion</i>		Wilbur and Orville Wright, first successful airplane flight; Frank Lloyd Wright, Larkin Building; first silent movie, <i>The Great Train Robbery</i>
1904	Anton Chekhov, <i>The Cherry Orchard</i> ; Joseph Conrad, <i>Nostromo</i> ; Henry James, <i>The Golden Bowl</i>		
1904–05			Russo-Japanese War
1905	George Bernard Shaw, <i>Major Barbara</i> ; Edith Wharton, <i>The House of Mirth</i>		Albert Einstein, special theory of relativity
1907	Henry Adams, <i>The Education of Henry Adams</i> ; Joseph Conrad, <i>The Secret Agent: A Simple Tale</i>	Pablo Picasso, <i>Les demoiselles d'Avignon</i>	
1908–15			Ford Motor Company develops assembly line, first mass-produced cars

Date	Literary texts	Other arts	Historic contexts
1924	First <i>Surrealist Manifesto</i> (2nd issued 1929) by André Breton <i>et al.</i> ; E.M. Forster, <i>A Passage to India</i> ; Thomas Mann, <i>The Magic Mountain</i> ; Eugene O'Neill, <i>The Emperor Jones</i>	Death of Vladimir Ilyich Lenin	
1924–28	Ford Madox Ford, <i>Parade's End</i>		
1925	Alain Locke, ed., <i>The New Negro</i> ; F. Scott Fitzgerald, <i>The Great Gatsby</i> ; Ernest Hemingway, <i>In Our Time</i> ; Franz Kafka, <i>The Trial</i> ; Amy Lowell, <i>The Complete Poetical Works</i> ; <i>What's O'Clock</i> ; Gertrude Stein, <i>The Making of Americans: The Hersland Family</i> ; Virginia Woolf, <i>Mrs. Dalloway</i>	Sergei Eisenstein, <i>Battleship Potemkin</i>	Scopes (Monkey) trial (Creationism vs. Darwin's Theory of Evolution); Werner Heisenberg, quantum mechanics
1925–64	Ezra Pound, <i>The Cantos</i>		
1926	Alberto Giacometti, <i>The Couple</i> ; <i>Spoon Woman</i> ; Ernest Hemingway, <i>The Sun Also Rises</i> ; Langston Hughes, <i>The Weary Blues</i> ; Franz Kafka, <i>The Castle</i>		General Strike in U.K.
1926–29		Frank Lloyd Wright, Graycliff Estate	
1927	Virginia Woolf, <i>To the Lighthouse</i>		BBC begins broadcasting (radio); Charles Lindbergh, first solo non-stop flight across Atlantic Ocean; Werner Heisenberg, uncertainty principle
1928	Bertolt Brecht, <i>The Threepenny Opera</i> ; D. H. Lawrence, <i>Lady Chatterley's Lover</i> ; Claude McKay, <i>Home to Harlem</i> ; Eugene O'Neill, <i>Strange Interlude</i> ; William Butler Yeats, <i>The Tower</i>		Alexander Fleming discovers penicillin; suffrage for all women over 21, U.K.; Kellogg–Briand Pact outlawing war and prohibiting its use as "an instrument of national policy"
1929	Elizabeth Bowen, <i>The Last September</i> ; William Faulkner, <i>The Sound and the Fury</i> ; Luigi Pirandello, <i>Tonight We Improvise</i> ; Gertrude Stein, <i>Four Saints in Three Acts</i> ; William Butler Yeats, <i>The Winding Stairs</i>		Wall Street stock market crash followed by Great Depression
1929–59	William Faulkner, <i>The Yoknapatawpha Saga</i>		

Date	Literary texts	Other arts	Historic contexts
1917	T.S. Eliot, <i>Prufrock and Other Observations</i> ; Edna St. Vincent Millay, <i>Renascence and Other Poems</i> ; Luigi Pirandello, <i>Right You Are, If You Think You Are</i>	Marcel Duchamp, <i>Fountain</i>	Balfour Declaration; first use of mustard gas on the Western Front; Russian Revolution
c. 1917–35		Harlem Renaissance	
1918	Amy Lowell, <i>Can Grande's Castle</i>	Marie Stopes, <i>Married Love</i> (best-selling sex and contraception manual)	Women 30 and older obtain vote in U.K. (extended to those over 21 in 1928)
1918–19			Influenza pandemic kills three times as many people as World War I in one-third the time
1918–22		Oswald Spengler, <i>The Decline of the West</i>	
1919	Sherwood Anderson, <i>Winesburg, Ohio</i> ; George Bernard Shaw, <i>Heartbreak House</i>		Amritsar (or Jallianwala Bagh) Massacre; first commercial Paris–London flight; Treaty of Versailles; Weimar Republic established; women obtain vote in U.S.
1919–33		Bauhaus school	
1920	D.H. Lawrence, <i>Women in Love</i> ; Ezra Pound, <i>Hugh Selwyn Mauberley</i>		Gandhi begins nonviolent campaign for Indian independence; League of Nations holds first meeting, Geneva
1920–33			Prohibition in U.S.
1921	H.D. (Hilda Doolittle), <i>Hymen</i> ; Marianne Moore, <i>Poems</i> ; Luigi Pirandello, <i>Six Characters in Search of an Author</i>	Ludwig Wittgenstein, <i>Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus</i>	
1921–24			Irish Civil War
1922	T.S. Eliot, <i>The Waste Land</i> ; James Joyce, <i>Ulysses</i> ; Katherine Mansfield, <i>The Garden Party and Other Stories</i> ; Luigi Pirandello, <i>Henry IV</i> ; Wallace Stevens, <i>Harmonium</i> ; Virginia Woolf, <i>Jacob's Room</i> ; Constantin Brancusi, <i>Bird in Space</i> series		
1923	Louise Bogan, <i>Body of This Death</i> ; Elmer Rice, <i>The Adding Machine</i> ; Jean Toomer, <i>Cane</i>		

Date	Literary texts	Other arts	Historic contexts
1936–42	T.S. Eliot, <i>Four Quartets</i>		
1937	Zora Neale Hurston, <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> ; Wallace Stevens, <i>The Man with the Blue Guitar &amp; Other Poems</i>	Picasso, <i>Guernica</i>	
1938			<i>Kristallnacht</i> (Crystal Night) across Germany
1939	James Joyce, <i>Finnegans Wake</i> ; Katherine Anne Porter, <i>Pale Horse, Pale Rider</i> ; Jean Rhys, <i>Good Morning, Midnight</i>		Deaths of W.B. Yeats and Sigmund Freud
1939–45			World War II
1940	Ernest Hemingway, <i>For Whom the Bell Tolls</i>	Charlie Chaplin, <i>The Great Dictator</i>	
1941	Virginia Woolf, <i>Between the Acts</i>		Deaths of James Joyce and Virginia Woolf

Date	Literary texts	Other arts	Historic contexts
1930	Hart Crane, <i>The Bridge</i> ; Jean Cocteau, <i>The Blood of a Poet</i> ; William Faulkner, <i>As I Lay Dying</i> ; Jean Rhys, <i>After Leaving Mr. Mackenzie</i>		
1931	Eugene O'Neill, <i>Mourning Becomes Electra</i> ; Virginia Woolf, <i>The Waves</i> ; Edmund Wilson, <i>Axel's Castle: A Study in the Imaginative Literature of 1870–1930</i>		
1931–36			Scottsboro Boys' trials
1932	William Faulkner, <i>Light in August</i>	Etienne Léro initiates revolutionary journal, <i>Légitime Défense</i>	
1932–33		Alberto Giacometti, "Walking Woman"	
1933			C.L.R. James, <i>The Case for West Indian Self-Government</i> ; Franklin Delano Roosevelt becomes U.S. president; Adolf Hitler named German chancellor; Nazis open Dachau concentration camp; Reichstag fire enables Hitler to ban Communist Party; U.S. Customs seizes copies of <i>Ulysses</i> imported by Random House; resulting trial found it not to contravene obscenity laws and it was published in U.S.
1933–43	Thomas Mann, <i>Joseph and His Brothers</i>		
1934	Nancy Cunard, ed., <i>Negro: An Anthology</i>		
1935	Marianne Moore, <i>Selected Poems</i> ; Wallace Stevens, <i>Ideas of Order</i>		
1935–39		Frank Lloyd Wright, <i>Fallingwater</i>	
1936	Djuna Barnes, <i>Nightwood</i> ; William Faulkner, <i>Absalom, Absalom!</i>	Charlie Chaplin, <i>Modern Times</i>	
1936–38			Stalin's "Great Purge"
1936–39			Spanish Civil War

# Modernism and Literature

This volume offers a comprehensive representation of the exciting, pivotal, and urgent nature of literary modernism, as well as more recent approaches including the “global turn.” Modernism can be difficult to understand without an awareness of contemporary concerns, so Mia Carter and Alan Friedman incorporate texts from a wide variety of disciplines such as art, politics, science, medicine, and philosophy.

This volume’s thoroughly explained, informative, and interesting discussions provide:

- An extensive introduction to the history and debates surrounding modernism
- Numerous foundational texts of modernism such as Darwin, Duncan, Einstein, Freud, Hughes, Luxemburg, Nietzsche, Stein, Zola
- Full texts and extracts representing modernist writers – including Anand, Conrad, Eliot, James, Hurston, Lawrence, Wilde, Woolf, and Yeats – as critics of themselves and their contemporaries
- A chronology of key historical events and publications
- A glossary of key terms, people, theories, and themes
- A detailed bibliography offering advice on further study and research
- A companion website ([www.routledge.com/cw/carter](http://www.routledge.com/cw/carter)) featuring an interactive timeline with dates and images that contextualize the literature of the period, as well as author biographies and links to additional resources and videos

Addressing current as well as historical debates about modernism, this book includes discussion of the Harlem Renaissance, feminism and women’s writing, international and global movements, and anti-imperialism, while acknowledging the variety of competing modernisms. This is the ideal guide for anyone seeking an overview and an in-depth treatment of this complex cultural turn and its foundational texts.

**Mia Carter** is a University Distinguished Teaching Associate Professor of Literature at the University of Texas at Austin, USA.

**Alan Warren Friedman** is Thaman Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Texas at Austin, USA.



"This reader impressively captures the modernist sense of excitement, danger and novelty. With its enterprising mix of familiar and less familiar texts, *Modernism and Literature* will be a major resource for students of the period."

Peter Nicholls, *Professor of English, New York University*

"This expertly assembled, comprehensive volume will be an indispensable reference work to students and teachers. *Modernism and Literature* demonstrates the interdisciplinary scope as well as the global relevance of modernism."

Anita Patterson, *Associate Professor of English, Boston University*

"This exciting new anthology of modernist literature and culture will undoubtedly become an indispensable resource for readers, teachers, and researchers alike. The volume, with its carefully framed conjunction of texts, offers us a newly textured terrain and will certainly generate new perspectives on modernism."

Dr. Anna Snaith, *Reader in Twentieth-Century Literature, King's College London*

"Wide-ranging and multifaceted, *Modernism and Literature* combines extensive introductions to well-selected readings with an excellent critical apparatus. It amounts to the closest single volume there is to a comprehensive resource for graduate and undergraduate courses on Modernism."

Peter Childs, *Professor of Modern English Literature, University of Gloucestershire*

"This will be an extremely helpful text for students, providing them a deeper historical sense of the roots of Modernism than most other anthologies, as well as a wider perspective in global sources."

Susan Weisser, *Adelphi University*

"Mia Carter and Alan Friedman have done a wonderful job of providing us with a new primary map and with new highlighted routes connecting the various capitals of modernist studies. I wish I had had the book in my hands twenty years ago."

Joshua Weiner, *Associate Professor of English, University of Maryland, College Park*