

ENG2302: Early Twentieth-Century Literature in English (2023)

Assessment guidelines: Term paper

Level: the course is aimed at students in the first semester of their second year of study.

Students answer one essay question from the selection.

Highly successful essays should:

- Respond with direct relevance to the question, paying attention to any special stipulations
- Demonstrate an excellent understanding of, and strong engagement with, texts by authors studied on the course, as well as the literary culture of the period as a whole
- Deploy a high level of analysis and critical thinking
- Communicate effectively and fluently
- Be well presented and thoroughly documented, with a clear and consistent referencing style
- Deploy and engage with a range of well-chosen secondary materials
- Offer some distinctive or original perspectives

Moderately successful essays should:

- Offer a response which is relevance to the question and its terms
- Demonstrate some understanding of, and engagement with, literature and/or literary movements from the period in question
- Make use of some appropriate secondary materials
- Show some evidence of the ability to analyse material
- Be written in a generally readable and fluent form and style
- Provide appropriate references

Very low-scoring and failing essays will not satisfactorily meet some or all of these criteria.

Instructions and essay questions can be found overleaf.

Instructions

Write an essay responding to **one** of the questions below.

Your answer should engage closely with **2-3 texts studied on the course**, and should make use of a range of appropriate **secondary reading** (scholarly books, essays and journal articles). Some preliminary suggestions are provided on Canvas.

Essays should be formatted with 1.5 line spacing and 12-point font size. Referencing and style must be consistent and conform to a major system (by default, [Chicago style with footnotes](#)).

Length: 8-10 standard pages, excluding bibliography

Essay questions

1. Discuss how and why writers of this period employed experimentation with form and language in their attempts to represent the world in new ways.
2. Consider the ways in which writers of this period confronted the theme of human mortality or finitude.
3. Ezra Pound encouraged his contemporaries to "make it new," while T.S. Eliot wrote in "Tradition and the Individual Talent" that "the poet must develop or procure the consciousness of the past." Discuss the relationship between the old and the new in writing from the period studied.
4. How and why did some early twentieth-century texts and authors place themselves in opposition to "mainstream" society and its values?
5. Discuss the relationship between text and historical/biographical context in at least two works from the period.
6. Write an essay examining how literary innovation in this period can be related to, or contrasted with, innovation in other arts (e.g. music, visual art).
7. How did English literature of the early twentieth century respond to new economic and/or technological realities?
8. How radical were this period's literary renegotiations of *gender*, *race* or *nation* (choose one)?
9. Consider the presentation of love and desire in at least two works from the period.
10. In what ways, and through what techniques, do literary texts of the period investigate the nature of human thought and perception?