

B.A. Seminar
Challenges of Modernism:
Thus. 12.00-14.00
Prof. Elisabeth Bronfen

(1.) 20. Feb - Introduction

Modern Life

(2.) 27. Feb – Charles Baudelaire: “The Painter of Modern Life”

(3.) 6. Mar – Henry James: “The Beast in the Jungle” and “The Art of Fiction”

(4.) 13. Mar – Edith Wharton: *The Reef*

(5.) 20. Mar – Willa Cather: *A Lost Lady*

Modern Psyche

(6.) 27. Mar – Sigmund Freud: “ZeitgemäÙes über Krieg und Tod” along with DAS CABINET DES DR. CALIGARI, a film by Robert Wiene

** There will be NO CLASS on the 3rd of April, owing to the hearings for the professorship in Global Literatures in English

(7.) 10. Apr – F. Scott Fitzgerald: *This Side of Paradise*

(8.) 17. Apr – William Faulkner: *As I Lay Dying*

Modern City

(10.) 8. Mai – MODERN TIMES, a film by Charles Chaplin

(11.) 15. Mai – METROPOLIS, a film by Fritz Lang

(12.) 22. Mai – MENSCHEN AM SONNTAG, a film by Kurt and Robert Siodmak, Edgar G. Ulmer and Fred Zinnemann

Please bear in mind: To come to class without having done the reading (or viewing) makes little to no sense. You can not fruitfully partake in class discussions if you have not prepared for them. All primary texts must, therefore, be read and, in the case of the films, viewed, before the class session dealing with them. Copies of the films are in the library, but I recommend you buy your own copy, as you would buy your own copy of the novellas and novels. In some cases, the DVDs are actually even cheaper than the books. Many of the movies can also be watched via online streaming.

Requirements for the class: All students must prepare a thesis statement for each class, to be handed in at the end of each session. This can also entail a series of questions, comments or associations; it will facilitate class discussion and allow me to see in what directions you have been thinking while preparing for the class sessions. In addition, all students must compile written minutes (*Sitzungsprotokoll*) for one of the class sessions. Finally, students taking the class for 6 KP must write an essay. It is wise to use the class discussions to test your ideas for this written assignment.