

Prof. Caroline Brown  
ANG1034  
Twentieth and Twenty-First Century Literatures in English

This course will explore a diversity of twentieth and twenty-first century literature in English. Central to this will be our consideration of the intersection of thematics and aesthetics. By exploring thematically related works within specific genres, or literary categories, we will break texts into their component parts and develop close reading skills. In the first part of the semester, we will read poetry and short stories, analyzing such themes as love and loss, desire and grief. Fundamental to this will be our pondering the role of art and aesthetics in the construction of the literary text. An important component in this process will be our analysis of how writers experiment with form, both building on and challenging precedent. Our inquiry will culminate in reading Sandra Cisneros's *The House on Mango Street*, a culturally and aesthetically hybridized novel that is as much prose-poem as short-story collection. The second part of the course will be structured as a case study of the modernist writer, Virginia Woolf. We will read Woolf's classic, *Mrs. Dalloway*, and Michael Cunningham's late-twentieth century fictional text, *The Hours*, as the re-inscription of her panoramic novel and fraught life. We will end by discussing a series of essays, works that explore both Woolf and the English countryside that was so central to her creativity. In this manner, we will reflect on how writers speak to themselves, each other, and their readers across time and place and sensibility.