

Winter 2023

ANG 6165: Modernist Debates and Literary Forms

Prof. Jane Malcolm

jane.malcolm@umontreal.ca

Office Hours: By appointment

ANG 6165: Studies in Modernism

What is new◇what is modern◇who decides? This course asks whether we might define literary modernism (and its relationship to other modernist genres) as an exercise in idiosyncrasy, or as a series of experiments with language and representation, or as a deliberate conflagration of –isms and schools, or as a reckoning with tradition, or... Charting the constellations of aesthetic statements, or poetics, that underpin the modernist moment, we will approach modernism via its most canonical moments as well as (and especially) its most arbitrary and idiosyncratic. Given that debates about the value of poetic modernism preoccupied its practitioners and detractors—and, in many ways, continue to preoccupy modernist scholarship—we will work our way through modernism with an eye toward its impassioned and often conflicting aesthetic/political/social agendas.