Course Description:
The recent renaissance in modernist studies has been accompanied by theoretical and methodological commitments to interdisciplinary work. A glance at a conference program or journal suggests that the study of modernism, while continuing to address canonical authors and texts, has expanded into a study of modernity writ large. This seminar will explore the relationship between literary modernism and cultural studies (as well as parallel approaches, including the sociology of literature and political formalism) to address several key questions: what is the relationship between canonical modernism and the new modernist studies? How might scholars primarily interested in literary texts use or engage with cultural studies of modernity? What challenges do such studies pose to the field as a whole? Our readings will include modernist texts (including both “high” and “middlebrow” works) as well as recent scholarly studies of modernity; many of the readings will focus on gender and sexuality.

Required Texts (available at Stony Books):
Liz Conor, *The Spectacular Modern Woman* (Indiana UP, 0253216702)
Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* (Penguin, 0141441674)
Laura Doan, *Fashioning Sapphism* (Columbia UP, 0231110073)
Rita Felski, *The Gender of Modernity* (Harvard UP, 0674341945)
Radclyffe Hall, *The Well of Loneliness* (Anchor, 0385416091)
James Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (Penguin, 0142437344)
Nella Larsen, *Passing* (Penguin, 0142437271)
D. H. Lawrence, *The Virgin and the Gipsy* (Vintage, 0679740775)
Anita Loos, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* (Liveright, 0871401703)
Virginia Woolf, *Mrs Dalloway* (Harcourt, 0156030357)

Additional readings are available on-line through Blackboard and the Library website (under “Databases & E-Journals”).
Course Requirements
In addition to regular participation in seminar discussions, you will give one research-based class presentation, a twenty-minute presentation based on reading above and beyond that assigned to all students on the syllabus. You should plan to consult me in advance of your presentation date for reading recommendations. You will also prepare one twenty-page paper; an annotated bibliography and abstract for this paper will be due no later than Wednesday, November 22. Students who intend to apply this course toward the Women’s Studies Certificate must write a seminar paper relevant to that program. During our final class session, all students will write shorter versions of their paper in a class conference.

Course Calendar
Items marked with one asterisk can be found on Blackboard
Items marked with two asterisks are available on-line through the Library

August 31  Introduction to the course

September 7  No class (Labor Day)

September 14  Felski, The Gender of Modernity

September 21  Conrad, Heart of Darkness
Leslie Heywood, “Gendered Restraints: Heart of Darkness and the Anorexic Logic of Literary Modernism”* (from Modernism, Gender and Culture)
Anne McClintock, “The Lay of the Land” (from Imperial Leather)*

September 28  No Class (Yom Kippur)

September 29  Correction day (Meets on a Monday schedule)
Lawrence Rainey, “The Price of Modernism: Publishing TWL”* (from Institutions of Modernism)
Tim Armstrong, “Waste Products”* (from Modernism, Technology and the Body)

October 5  Joyce, A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man
Valérie Bénéjam, “Stephen and the Venus of Praxiteles” (from Cultural Studies of James Joyce)*
October 12  Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*
Brenda Silver, “Virginia Woolf’s Face”* (from *Virginia Woolf Icon*)

October 19  Conor, *The Spectacular Modern Woman*

October 26  Anita Loos, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*
Joan Shelley Rubin, Foreword to *Middlebrow Moderns**
Lisa Botshon and Meredith Goldsmith, Introduction to *Middlebrow Moderns*

November 2  Doan, *Fashioning Sapphism*

November 9  Hall, *The Well of Loneliness*

November 16 Lawrence, *The Virgin and the Gipsy*
 Joseph Boone, “Channeling the Floods of Desire” (from *Libidinal Currents*) *

November 23 Larsen, *Passing*

November 30 A Day on Modern Objects and Activities
 Caroline Evans, “Jean Patou’s American Mannequins.”

December 7  Class Conference

            Monday, December 14
            Final Paper due in my mailbox by 4 pm
Suggested Additional Reading

**Books**


**Articles**

Barker, Chris. *Cultural Studies: Theory and Practice*. Sage, 2008. [Chapter 6, Enter Postmodernism]


