

get acquainted with

## modernism in one week

six things to read, in this order:

1. Eliot, T. S. "Tradition and the Individual Talent." 1919. In *Selected Prose of T.S. Eliot*, edited by Frank Kermode, 37-44. New York: Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, 1975. Note that this is a text **by a modernist**.
2. Greenberg, Clement. "Avant-Garde and Kitsch." In *Perceptions and Judgments, 1939-1944. Clement Greenberg: The Collected Essays and Criticism*, edited by John O'Brian, 1:6-22. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1986.
3. Bürger, Peter. *Theory of the Avant-Garde*. Translated by Michael Shaw. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1984. "Introduction: Theory of the Avant-Garde and Theory of Literature."
4. Krauss, Rosalind E. *The Originality of the Avant-Garde and Other Modernist Myths*. Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press, 1985. "The Originality of the Avant-Garde and Other Modernist Myths."
5. Jameson, Fredric. "Modernism and Imperialism." In *Nationalism, Colonialism, and Literature*, by Terry Eagleton, Fredric Jameson, and Edward W. Said. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1990.
6. Mao, Douglas, and Rebecca L. Walkowitz. "The New Modernist Studies." *PMLA* 123, no. 3 (May 1, 2008): 737-48. doi:10.1632/pmla.2008.123.3.737.

Questions to ask yourself (really write down some answers):

1. Which authors and texts seem to be most central to a modernist canon?
2. Who/what scholarly sources are cited frequently—books, people, presses, and journals?
3. What theoretical models do these authors find useful? What are the gaps in your theoretical training that you need to fill in order to read this work better?
4. What kinds of *moves* do you notice these authors making? Do these moves change over time?

Then:

Skim the table of contents of some recent issues (within the last two years) of the following journals. Try to spot familiar names (but it's okay if you don't). Pick out a few articles that seem to speak to your interests. Read them, and follow up on any of their citations that seem relevant to your interests.

- *Modernism/modernity*
- *Journal of Modern Literature*

At this point you'll have read about ten chapters or articles in the field of modernist studies, out of thousands. Are you an expert now? No. But you're on your way.

Make yourself a new modernism reading list, divided into primary and secondary texts, based on:

- what seems important to you in what you've read so far
- what speaks to your research interests (authors, regions, theoretical questions)
- the gaps in your training that you feel need filling