Researching Modernist Little Magazines

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Course web site: http://www.courses.psu.edu/engl/engl597e_mxm61/
Angel: https://cms.psu.edu/

Course Description:
This course will focus on modernist little magazines, partially for their own sakes (I would argue
that, as a genre, the little magazine is one of modernism's greatest legacies across the 20th century and
beyond), but also as tools for research on modernism and modernity.  We will look at reprints and primary
runs of little magazines from London, Chicago, New York, and Paris (no knowledge of French required---
we'll look primarily at expatriate journals) during the heights of modernism between around 1907 and the
1930s, and will explore what we can learn from them that we cannot learn from single author texts.  We
will use little magazines to explore issues of the print culture and public sphere of modernity, the
promotional culture of the early twentieth century, the dynamics of avant-garde movements, the
imblication of modernism and political, social, and cultural issues of the day, and what we can learn from
the bibliographic code of a text.

Students will do seminar presentations on little magazines of their choosing, and the course will be
partially shaped by the magazines the students select.  I'll also assign secondary readings and readings of
other little magazines and texts related to the concerns of the class.  Seminar papers can focus on a specific
journal, or on a set of issues arising across multiple journals or tied to a specific author or group of authors.
Little magazines we'll likely consider include Blast, The Freewoman/New Freewoman/Egoist, New Age, the
early English Review in London; Poetry, the Dial, and the Little Review in Chicago and New York; and
transition, Tambour, in Paris.  The library also holds some issues of Broom (Rome, Berlin, and New York),
and issues of some French surrealist little magazines for those who can read French.

Requirements:

1) Presentation: on a topic you will develop (in consultation with me).  You may assign
relevant readings to the class to supplement the course texts.  This presentation hopefully
will lead you to a paper topic.  If you will need audio or visual equipment, please let me
know in advance so I can arrange it.

2) Seminar Paper:  The primary requirement for the course is the seminar paper.  This
will be a research paper relating to the goals of the coarse, and you should aim for around
20-30 pages (though a successful paper might be either shorter or longer than this
suggested page range).

3) Research Review:  All students will share their papers with the class for discussion
during the final week of the semester.  If you’ve never had a paper discussed publicly in
your presence before, this can be a little disconcerting, but it can also be immensely
helpful (and if you are going into academia, you will spend the rest of your life
encountering situations like this).  My goals for this group discussion will be to have the
entire class benefit from each student’s research--this can really bring a class into focus in a helpful way--and to have the class provide positive feedback that might be useful in future dissertation chapters or articles derived from your research. Each student will have his or her paper discussed for approximately 20 minutes, and students should have specific comments in mind before coming to the session. Providing a written comment would be helpful. These sessions are not for mutual admiration: have serious and challenging criticisms, but remember to be constructive!

**Grades:**
Seminar Paper: 100%
I reserve the right to raise your final course grade if you have made an exceptional investment in the class---doing a superb job on your presentation and being a strong presence in class discussion---or to lower your final course grade if your presentation was particularly weak, or you rarely participated in class discussions or didn’t keep up with the readings.

**Attendance:**
I have no attendance policy for graduate classes--you’re all responsible adults--but I expect you to attend all the class sessions if possible. However, I do require you to attend the final sessions in which we discuss each other’s papers.

**Please note:** If you have a disability that I should be aware of and that might hinder your easy access to participation and success in this course, I will make every effort to accommodate your needs. Please let me know on the first day of class.

**Required Texts:**
_Blast_ (1 and 2)
_Tambour_
All other course texts on reserve or on web site
Syllabus
(subject to change)

Jan
10 Intro to little magazines.
Publishing institutions, markets for modernism

17 Uses of little magazines in interpreting
modernist texts. Theories of textuality
and material context.

24 London: *Blast*

31 *Blast*

Feb
7 *The New Freewoman* and *Egoist*

14 *Egoist*

21 *Egoist*

28 Chicago/New York: *The Little Review*

Mar

Mar 7-Mar 11 Spring Break

14 *Little Review*

21 *Little Review*

28 *Little Review*

Apr
4 Paris: *transition*

11 *transition*

18 *Tambour*

25 *Tambour*

**Mandatory Research Review**: One long or two shorter sessions on each other’s papers at end of semester, to be determined by your schedules. We’ll hold these sessions at my house.
On Reserve:

**London**


*The Egoist*. Weaver and Marsden. 1914-1919 Pattee B  AP4.E36

*The English Review*. Ford Madox Ford and others. 1908-1937. 052 En36 Annex

*Poetry Review*. Harold Monro. 1912 volume only. PN1010.P7


(and some in Spec Coll)


(see microfilm for 1913-1929)

**Chicago/New York**

*The Little Review*. Margaret Anderson and Jane Heap. 1914-1929. AP2.L647 Annex

(and some in Spec Coll)

*Poetry*. Harriet Monroe. 1912-pres PS301.P6 (only 1912-1939 on reserve)

*The Dial*. various. 1880-1929. 051 D54 Annex

**Paris**


(and some in Spec Coll)

*Transatlantic Review*. Ford. 1924. AP4.T76

(and some in Spec Coll)

**Only in Special Collections:**


*Exile*. Ed. Ezra Pound 1927-1928 AP2.E963

*The Enemy*. Ed. Wyndham Lewis. AP4.E47


**Note:** Some magazines in Special Collections but with full runs in reserve (see above).

**On Microfilm in microfilm reading room:**

*The New Age*. A. R. Orage. 1907-1922 microfilm E427 (only 1912-27, see below for on-line version)

*The New Statesman*. 1913-1929 Microfilm F14

**On-line:**

*The New Age* (Get 1907-1922 on-line at: http://www.modjourn.brown.edu/)

*The Dial* is available on American Periodicals Series Online (via LIAS).

Periodicals Content Index (via LIAS)