

Researching Modernist Little Magazines

Spr 2005

Engl 597E

Room: 59 Burrowes

Mon. 3:35-6:35 pm

Office Hours: M 12:30-1:30, W 11:00-1:00

Personal web site: <http://www.personal.psu.edu/faculty/m/x/mxm61/>

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

Angel: <https://cms.psu.edu/>

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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 imbrication 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 course, 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 New Freewoman. Dora Marsden and Harriet Shaw Weaver. 1913 AP4.E35 Annex

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

Poetry and Drama. Harold Monro. 1913-1914. PN2.P8 Annex

Monthly Chapbook. Harold Monro. 1919. AP4.C46 Annex

(and some in Spec Coll)

The New Statesman. various. 1931-1988 AP2.N625 (only 1931-1939 on reserve)

(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

transition. Eugene Jolas. 1927-1938. AP4.T77 Annex

(and some in Spec Coll)

Transatlantic Review. Ford. 1924. AP4.T76

(and some in Spec Coll)

The Little Magazine : A History and a Bibliography / by Frederick J. Hoffman, Charles Allen [and] Carolyn F. Ulrich. PN4836.H6

Only in Special Collections:

Blues. Ed. Charles Henri Ford 1929-1930 AP2.B64

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

The Enemy. Ed. Wyndham Lewis. AP4.E47

Little magazines profiles : the little magazines in Great Britain, 1939-1993 / Wolfgang Görtschacher. Spec Coll PN5124.L62G57 1993

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.modjournal.brown.edu/>)

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

Periodicals Content Index (via LIAS)