

Modernism

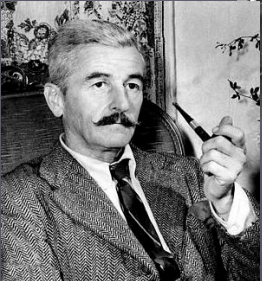
~1900-1945

Expatriates; Gertrude
Stein's "Lost Generation"



Ernest Hemingway
F. Scott Fitzgerald
Sherwood Anderson
Katherine Anne Porter
John Steinbeck
Irwin Shaw
James Thurber
Eudora Welty
Flannery O'Connor
William Faulkner

Southern Gothic
Authors



Modernist Art



Dora Maar Au Chat
Pablo Picasso



Woman with a Hat
Henri Matisse

Modernism

Stylistic Characteristics

- ▶ Discontinuous narrative; flashbacks
- ▶ Juxtaposition of images or characters
- ▶ Unconventional use of metaphor
- ▶ Intertextuality: crossover characters, repeated characters or situations, recurring or constant themes
- ▶ Stream of consciousness is common

Modernism

Thematic Characteristics

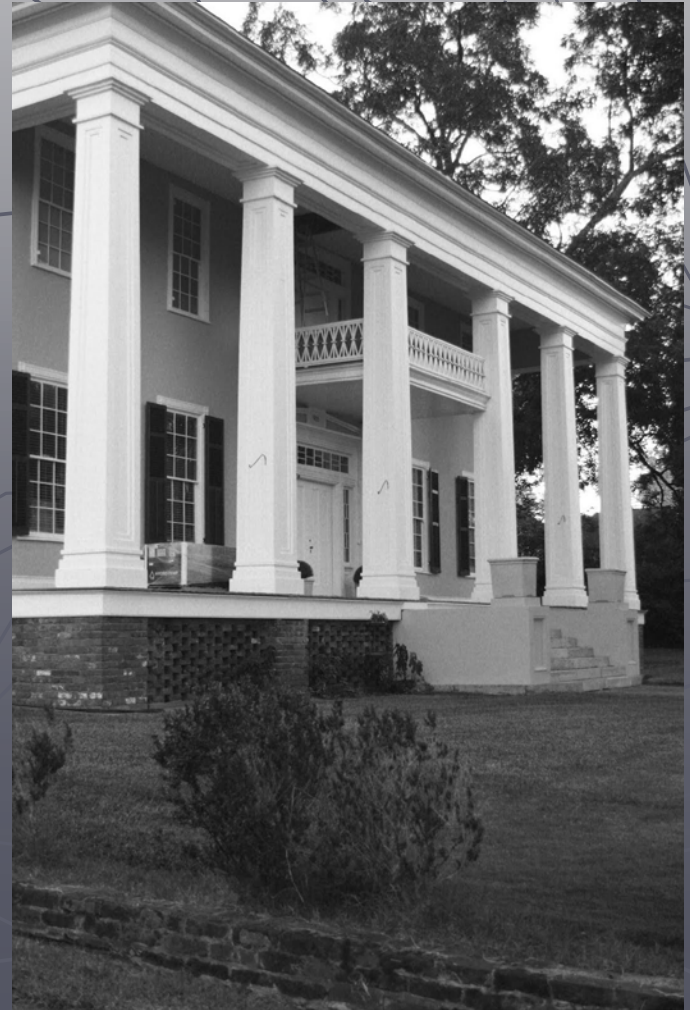
- ▶ Value of the despairing individual in the face of an unmanageable future
- ▶ Challenging social norms, cultural ideals, stereotypes, etc.
- ▶ Disillusionment; self-doubt; fitting in

Southern Gothic

- ▶ Explores and critiques stereotypes of Southern culture
- ▶ Uses supernatural, ironic, even grotesque events to reveal the eccentricities and inequities of Southern society
- ▶ Sometimes referred to as "Dark Romanticism"

Southern Gothic Topics

- ▶ Race relations
- ▶ Gender roles
- ▶ Poverty/crime
- ▶ Religious fervor/hypocrisy
- ▶ Class warfare



Southern Gothic Characters:

- ▶ Have a mixture of good and bad
- ▶ Author creates a sense of empathy in the reader, so that no matter how badly a character behaves, there will still be some level of understanding for the character

Titles & Questions on Short-answer Quiz

- ▶ Modernism & Southern Gothic
- ▶ "A Clean, Well-lighted Place"
- ▶ "Jemina, the Mountain Girl"
- ▶ "I'm a Fool"
- ▶ "Girls in Their Summer Dresses"
- ▶ "Greatest Man in the World"
- ▶ "Good Country People"
- ▶ "Noon Wine"
- ▶ "A Worn Path"
- ▶ "Shingles for the Lord"

Extended writing piece:

Describe an element from one of the stories we read during the Modernism Unit that shows originality, or a non-conformist quality that wasn't prevalent in literature that has come before. Examples of elements are:

- Character
- Plotline
- Theme
- Symbol

The Harlem Renaissance



How does this artist use symbolism to describe the Renaissance?

Where is Harlem?



- Frederick Douglass- former slave, orator, writer, statesman
- Marcus Garvey- leader of the African Diaspora movement
- Malcolm X- author, orator, leader of Organization of Afro-American Unity
- Adam Clayton Powell- 1st African American NY Congressman



Can you see any evidence from the street map that this is predominately an African American community?

Genesis of the Renaissance

Great Migration:
the movement of
hundreds of
thousands of
African
Americans from
rural areas in the
South to urban
areas in both the
North and South.



What push factors led to the migration? Racism, unemployment, poverty

What pull factors led to the migration? Jobs, economic opportunity, equality

Growing African American Middle Class: developed as a result of improved educational and employment opportunities for African Americans.



The Harlem section of New York became the center of this new African American class.

Impact

Before



After



As Modern Artists look to “make it new” they turn to the “New Negro” arts movement.



Josephine Baker



Harlem Renaissance Themes

- Pride
- Self-determination
- Prejudice
- Faith
- Social Justice

Differences in Artistic Vision

- “Thus all art is propaganda and ever must be despite the wailing of the purists.”
- “The great social gain in this is the releasing of our talented group from the arid fields of controversy and debate to the productive fields of creative expression.”



Alain LeRoy Locke & W.E.B. DuBois

“We younger Negro artists who create now intend to express our individual dark-skinned selves without fear or shame. If white people are pleased we are glad. If they are not, it doesn't matter. We know we are beautiful. And ugly too.”



Langston Hughes & Zora Neale Hurston



POST MODERN ISM




POST- WWII-
1960S




Modernism: Quest for
meaning in a chaotic world

Postmodernism: rejection,
often satirically, of any
notion of “meaning”



Modernism: uses satire and parody as devices **within** the narrative

Postmodernism: satire and parody are the **central focus** of the narrative



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Authorial presence within the narrative

Many times the subject of fiction, narration, and the writing process itself are topics within the narrative



**Notable “Post-postmodern”
authors of fiction:**

Chuck Palahniuk (*Fight Club*)

Cormac McCarthy (*The Road*)

