



Course description

This course explores the rich and varied culture of the so-called modernist "little" magazines that emerged throughout Britain and America in the early twentieth century. Defined by Suzanne W. Churchill and Adam McKible as "non-commercial enterprises founded by individuals or small groups intent upon publishing the experimental works or radical opinions of untried, unpopular, or under-represented writers," little magazines played a crucial role in defying mainstream tastes and providing an outlet for marginalised aspects of contemporary culture.¹

One aim of the course is to arrive at a better understanding of periodical publications as a genre: How does reading a magazine differ from reading a book? How does the magazine format affect the relationship between author, editor and reader? What implication does the collaborative nature of magazine publishing have for our understanding of what it means to "author" a text? In addition to addressing these broader theoretical questions, we will develop a range of critical tools and analytical methods for reading modernist little magazines. In particular, we will investigate their form and function as printed objects representing the convergence of a varied set of cultural, political and commercial interests in the early twentieth century.

Students participating in this course will learn how to work with digital archives such as the Modernist Journals Project (<http://modjourn.org>) from which much of our primary reading will be drawn.

¹ Suzanne W. Churchill and Adam McKible, "Introduction," in *Little Magazines and Modernism: New Approaches* (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2007), 1-18 (6).

Week 1
(10 Oct 2022)

A Very Brief Introduction to Modernism

Set reading:

- "Modernism" in *The Routledge Dictionary of Literary Terms*, ed. by Peter Childs and Roger Fowler (Abingdon: Routledge, 2006), 145-46

Recommended reading:

- *The Cambridge Companion to Modernism*, ed. by Michael H. Levenson (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999)

Week 2
(17 Oct 2022)

Modernist Little Magazines

Set reading:

- Selected statements by modernist scholars on little magazines (see Learnweb)

Recommended reading:

- Peter Brooker and Andrew Thacker, "General Introduction," In *The Oxford Critical and Cultural History of Modernist Magazines*, ed. Peter Brooker et al. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009), 1:1-26

NORTH AMERICA

Week 3
(24 Oct 2022)

Poetry: Great Poets Need Great Audiences

Primary reading:

- *Poetry* 1, no. 1 (October 1912)

Secondary reading:

- John Timberman Newcomb, "Poetry's Opening Door: Harriet Monroe and American Modernism," in *Little Magazines and Modernism: New Approaches*, ed. Suzanne W. Churchill and Adam McKible (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2007), 85-103

Week 4
(31 Oct 2022)

Poetry: Men or Women?

Primary reading:

- Selections from *Poetry* concerning H. D. (see Learnweb)

Secondary reading:

- Excerpt from Georgina Taylor, *H.D. and the Public Sphere of Modernist Women Writers, 1913-1946* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2001)

Week 5
(7 Nov 2022)

The Little Review: The Art of Magazine Editing

Primary reading:

- Margaret Anderson, "Announcement," *The Little Review* 1, no. 1 (March 1914), 1-2
- Margaret Anderson, "A Real Magazine.", *The Little Review* 3, no. 5 (August 1916) 1-2
- *The Little Review* 3, no. 6 (September 1916)

Secondary reading:

- Jayne E. Marek, "Reader Critics: Margaret Anderson, Jane Heap and the *Little Review*," in *Women Editing Modernism: 'Little' Magazines & Literary History* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1995), 60-100

Week 6
(14 Nov 2022)

Self-Study Task – *The Little Review*: (Meta-)Advertising

Primary reading:

- Selected advertisements from *The Little Review*

Secondary Reading:

- Amanda Sigler, "Art and its Others 2: Advertisement and the Little Magazines," in *The Cambridge History of Modernism*, ed. by Vincent Sherry (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017), 422-41

This is an online self-study task. See Learnweb for instructions.

Week 7 (21 Nov 2022)	<i>Fire!!: Avant-Garde Aesthetics</i>
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Primary reading:

- *Fire!!* (1926)

Secondary reading:

- Anne Elizabeth Carroll, "The Importance of Multiple Identities: *Fire!!* as an Avant-Garde Arts Magazine," in *Word, Image, and the New Negro: Representation and Identity in the Harlem Renaissance* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2005), 191-217

BRITAIN

Week 8 (28 Nov 2022)	<i>Rhythm: Art and Commerce</i>
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Primary reading:

- John Middleton Murry, "What We Have Tried To Do," *Rhythm* I, no. 3 (Winter 1911), 36
- *Rhythm* 2, no. 12 (January 1913)

Secondary reading:

- Andrew Thacker, "Modern Tastes in *Rhythm*: The Visual and Verbal Culture of Advertisements in Modernist Magazines" in *Katherine Mansfield and Modernism*, ed. by Delia da Sousa Correa, Gerri Kimber and Susan Reid (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2010), 4-19

Week 9 (5 Dec 2022)	<i>The Freewoman: Little Magazines, Feminism and the Suffrage Press</i>
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Primary reading:

- *The Freewoman* I, no. 1 (23 November 1911)

Secondary reading:

- Cary Franklin, "Marketing Edwardian Feminism: Dora Marsden, *Votes for Women* and *The Freewoman*," *Women's History Review* 11, no. 4 (2002): 631-642

Week 10 (12 Dec 2022)	<i>The New Freewoman/The Egoist: Politics to Poetics</i>
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Primary reading:

- 'Views and Comments', *The New Freewoman* 13, no. 1 (15 December 1913), 244-45
- *The Egoist* I, no. 11 (1 June 1914)

Secondary reading:

- Mark Morrisson, "Marketing British Modernism: The *Freewoman*, the *Egoist*, and Counterpublic Spheres" in *The Public Face of Modernism: Little Magazines, Audiences, and Reception, 1905-1920* (Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 2001), 84-132

Week 11 (19 Dec 2022)	Workshop with Sara Wingate Gray (University College London)
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No set reading.

Weeks 12&13 (26 Dec 2022 & 2 Jan 2023)	Christmas Break – no class
Week 14 (9 Jan 2023)	Term Paper Workshop I: Research Skills

No set reading.

Week 15 (16 Jan 2023)	<i>BLAST: The Little Magazine as Manifesto</i>
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Primary reading:

- *BLAST*, no. 1 (1914)

Secondary reading:

- Mary Ann Caws, "The Poetics of the Manifesto: Nowness and Newness," in *Manifesto: A Century of Isms*, ed. Mary Ann Caws (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2001), xix-xxix

19 Jan 2023	DUE: Term paper proposal
Week 16 (23 Jan 2023)	Term Paper Workshop II: Writing Skills
	No set reading.
Week 17 (30 Jan 2023)	Wrap-up and review

5 March 2023 DUE: Term paper

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Primary

- Modernist Journals Project: <https://modjourn.org/>
- Blue Mountain Project: <https://bluemountain.princeton.edu/bluemtn/cgi-bin/bluemtn>

Secondary

- Peter Brooker et al., eds., *The Oxford Critical and Cultural History of Modernist Magazines*, 3 vols. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009-2013)
- Suzanne W. Churchill and Adam McKible, eds., *Little Magazines and Modernism: New Approaches* (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2007)
- Suzanne W. Churchill and Adam McKible, "Modernism in Magazines," in *The Oxford Handbook of Modernisms*, ed. Peter Brooker, Andrzej Gasiorek, Deborah Longworth and Andrew Thacker (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), 335-52
- Faye Hammill and Mark Hussey, *Modernism's Print Cultures* (London: Bloomsbury, 2016)
- Robert Scholes and Clifford Wulfman, *Modernism in the Magazines: An Introduction* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2010)