

Course Description

Course Unit

Great Questions in Modern Literatures

UC Code

MOD5.921659

ECTS Credits

12 ECTS

Work Hours

336H (12 ECTS)

Level

MA

Academic year and Semester

2024/2025, S2

Faculty

Chiara Nifosi

Class

TP 1

Language of instruction

English

Class Description

The present course revolves around Charles Baudelaire and his legacy in the immediate aftermath of his life as well as for the development of lyric poetry in the 20th-century. Through the in-depth analysis of his two collections, *Les Fleurs du Mal* and *Le Spleen de Paris*, we will navigate the complex landscape of the European lyric in the post-romantic era and tackle the formation of a modern poetic consciousness. As a privileged point of entry into issues of urbanization, industrialization, progress, and social justice, Baudelaire's poetic corpus reveals a stratification of concerns that range from aesthetics to philosophy to sociology. These concerns translate into the restless search for a new poetic idiom and new poetic forms, such as the prose poem, which strive to fix modernity into

durable artistic expression. During the semester, we will also consider Baudelaire's prose production, which reflects the evolution of taste and sensibility in such fields as art and music criticism, social and anthropological analysis. Finally, each component of the course will allow us to put Baudelaire in dialogue with other authors who are largely indebted to him, such as the later symbolist generation, Avant-Garde and modernist poetry.

Grading and Assessment

Students will be graded based on the following components: course attendance and participation in the class discussion; regular posts on course website (Moodle); final argumentative paper. The exact grade breakdown will be available in the finalized syllabus.

Bibliography

Benjamin, Walter. *The Writer of Modern Life: Essays on Charles Baudelaire*. Cambridge MA, London: Belknap Press, 2006.

Berman, Marshall. *All That Is Solid Melts into Air: The Experience of Modernity*. New York and London: Penguin, 1988.

Calinescu, Matei. *Five Faces of Modernity. Modernism, Avant-Garde, Decadence, Kitsch, Postmodernism*. Durham: Duke UP, 1987.

Deguy, Michel. *La Pietà Baudelaire*. Paris: Belin, 2012.

Fondane, Benjamin. *Baudelaire et l'expérience du gouffre*. Paris: Seghers, 1947.

Gilman, Margaret. *Baudelaire the Critic*. New York: Columbia UP, 1943.

Locatelli, Federica. *Une figure de l'expansion. La périphrase chez Baudelaire*. Bern: Peter Lang, 2015.

King, Russell, et al. *Reconceptions: Reading Modern French Poetry*. The University of Nottingham, 1996.

Starobinski, Jean. *La Mélancolie au miroir: trois lectures de Baudelaire*. Paris: Julliard, 1989.

Whidden, Seth. *Reading Baudelaire's Le Spleen de Paris and the Nineteenth-Century Prose Poem*. Oxford: OUP, 2022.

Prerequisites (if applicable)

Course taught in English. Reading skills and oral/written proficiency in the language are necessary.