



EN 4923/6923
American Novel since 1900
Modernism and Mass Culture
Spring 2020 / TTH 2:00–3:15 / Dr. Ted Atkinson

In this course, we will explore the complex relationship between modernism and mass culture in the U.S. during the early twentieth century. We will study how literary modernism was defined—and defined itself—in terms of distinctions made between “high art” and popular forms of cultural production. Focused on a representative selection of novels, we will study the formal properties of modernism, read relevant literary and cultural theory, and draw on an archive comprising film, radio, music, [little] magazines, advertising, and fashion to situate the texts in illuminating cultural contexts.

Novels:

F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*

Anita Loos, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*

Nella Larsen, *Quicksand*

Nathanael West, *Miss Lonelyhearts*

Raymond Chandler, *The Big Sleep*