

Modernisms and Modernities:

Joyce, Kafka, Beckett



This class will be devoted to parallel readings of Joyce's, Kafka's and Beckett's major works. In the first decades of the twentieth century, Joyce and Kafka lived in the Austro-Hungarian empire, Joyce in Trieste, Kafka in Prague. The authors never met but shared similar concerns. In fact, all three writers explored the ways in which language structures subjectivity while meditating on beauty, faith, humor, justice and resistance to oppression. Before examining formal links and converging concerns we will discuss the corpus of short stories, aphorisms and novellas, which will allow us to investigate commonalities in the aesthetic theories of Joyce, Kafka and Beckett while tackling specific hermeneutics required by their works.

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ENGL 1070, Spring 2024