Honors Credit only by special arrangement with the instructor. Modernism was a literary movement that changed all the accepted conventions of literature in a way that continues to cast its shadow over much fiction and poetry written today. The modernists themselves held views of how their work would alter literature and the larger society and culture. This course surveys the modernist experiment through five major figures - T. S. Eliot, James Joyce, Ezra Pound, Gertrude Stein, and Virginia Woolf - focusing on how each conceived literature's relation to history. It examines key literary texts and critical writings of each author, as well as some more recent scholarship. Students should be prepared to read a wide variety of types of texts, and should be committed to engaging with some of the most important, exciting, but also challenging works in the English language.