The Cambridge Companion to American Modernism

The Cambridge Companion to American Modernism provides a comprehensive and authoritative overview of American literary modernism from 1890 to 1939. These original essays by twelve distinguished scholars of international reputation offer critical accounts of the major genres, literary culture, and social contexts that define the current state of modern American literature and cultural studies. Among the diverse topics covered are nationalism, race, gender, and the impact of music and visual arts on literary modernism, as well as surveys of the achievements of American modernism in fiction, poetry and drama. The book concludes with a chapter on modern American criticism. An essential reference guide to the field, the Companion gives readers a chronology of key events and publication dates, covering the first half of the twentieth century in the United States, and an up-to-date bibliography of further reading organized by chapter topics.
THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO
AMERICAN MODERNISM

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Citation Acknowledgement

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1890  Battle of Wounded Knee  
Jane Addams founds Hull House  
Sarah Orne Jewett, Tales of New England

1891  First international copyright law  
Thomas Edison patents the “kinetoscope”  
Ambrose Bierce, In the Midst of Life  
Mary E. Wilkins Freeman, A New England Nun and Other Stories

1892  Homestead (Pennsylvania) steelworkers’ strike  
Death of Whitman (b. 1819)  
Joel Chandler Harris, Uncle Remus and his Friends  
William Dean Howells, The Quality of Mercy

1893  Financial panic of 1893  
World’s Columbian Exhibition opens in Chicago  
Muckraking journal McClure’s Magazine founded  
Paul Laurence Dunbar, Oak and Ivy  
Stephen Crane, Maggie: A Girl of the Streets  
Henry James, The Real Thing and Other Tales

1894  Coxey’s Army of the unemployed marches on Washington  
George Washington Cable, John March, Southerner  
Kate Chopin, Bayou Folk  
Samuel Langhorne Clemens (Mark Twain), The Tragedy of Pudd’nhead Wilson and the Comedy of Those Extraordinary Twins

1895  Invention of the motion picture  
Stephen Crane, The Red Badge of Courage, The Black Riders and Other Lines  
Alice Dunbar-Nelson, Violets and Other Tales
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1896  Klondike Gold Rush begins
      Supreme Court defines “separate but equal doctrine” in Plessy v. Ferguson
      Abraham Cahan, Yekl
      Paul Laurence Dunbar, Lyrics of Lowly Life
      Sarah Orne Jewett, The Country of the Pointed Firs

1897  Edwin Arlington Robinson, Children of the Night
      William James, The Varieties of Religious Experience
      Kate Chopin, A Night in Acadie

1898  Spanish-American War
      Stephen Crane, The Open Boat and Other Stories
      Henry James, The Turn of the Screw

1899  US intervenes in China’s Boxer Rebellion
      Charles W. Chesnutt, The Conjure Woman
      Kate Chopin, The Awakening
      Charlotte Perkins Gilman, The Yellow Wallpaper
      Frank Norris, McTeague

1900  Founding of International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union
      Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins, Contending Forces: A Romance Illustrative of Negro Life North and South
      Theodore Dreiser, Sister Carrie

1901  President William McKinley is shot by Leon Czolgoz and dies on September 14; he is succeeded by Theodore Roosevelt
      Founding of United Textile Workers of America
      Charles W. Chesnutt, The Marrow of Tradition
      Frank Norris, The Octopus
      Booker T. Washington, Up from Slavery

1902  United Mine Workers Strike
      Charles Alexander Eastman, Indian Boyhood
      Ellen Glasgow, The Battle-Ground
      Henry James, The Wings of the Dove

1903  Wilbur and Orville Wright achieve first sustained heavier-than-air machine flight on December 17
      W. E. B. Du Bois, The Souls of Black Folk
      Henry James, The Ambassadors
      Jack London, The Call of the Wild
      Gertrude Stein, The Making of Americans
Chronology

1904 National Child Labor Committee formed
Charles Alexander Eastman, Red Hunters and the Animal People
Henry James, The Golden Bowl
Jack London, The Sea-Wolf

1905 Industrial Workers of the World union organized in Chicago
W. E. B. Du Bois initiates the “Niagara Movement”
Willa Cather, The Troll Garden
Edith Wharton, The House of Mirth

1906 San Francisco earthquake
Atlanta race riots
Congress passes the Meat Inspection Act and the Pure Food and Drug Act
Upton Sinclair, The Jungle

1907 Financial Panic of 1907
Presidential restriction of Japanese immigration
Henry Adams, The Education of Henry Adams
Henry James, The American Scene
Edith Wharton, The Fruit of the Tree

1908 Henry Ford produces first Model T Ford
Mary E. Wilkins Freeman, The Shoulders of Atlas
Jack London, The Iron Heel

1909 W. E. B. Du Bois founds National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
W. C. Handy composes “Memphis Blues”
Gertrude Stein, Three Lives
William Carlos Williams, Poems

1910 Mann Act (“White Slave Traffic Act”) prohibits the transportation of women across state lines for “immoral purposes”
Great Migration of Southern African-Americans to urban North begins
William Dean Howells, My Mark Twain
Ezra Pound, The Spirit of Romance

1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Company factory fire
Supreme Court dissolves Standard Oil Company for restraint of trade
Theodore Dreiser, Jennie Gerhardt
Charlotte Perkins Gilman, The Man-Made World
Edith Wharton, Ethan Frome


**Chronology**

1912
- Titanic collides with an iceberg and sinks on its maiden voyage
- Mary Antin, *The Promised Land*
- Willa Cather, *Alexander’s Bridge*
- Sui-Sin Far (Edith Maude Eaton), *Mrs. Spring Fragrance*
- James Weldon Johnson, *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man*
- Edith Wharton, *The Reef*

1913
- The New York Armory Show
- Willa Cather, *O Pioneers!*
- Robert Frost, *A Boy’s Will*
- Ellen Glasgow, *Virginia*
- Edith Wharton, *The Custom of the Country*

1914
- Archduke Francis Ferdinand is assassinated in Sarajevo triggering World War I
- Panama Canal completed
- Ludlow Massacre at the Colorado Fuel and Iron Corporation
- Carl Sandburg, *Chicago*
- Gertrude Stein, *Tender Buttons*

1915
- German submarine sinks the ocean liner *Lusitania*
- Willa Cather, *The Song of the Lark*
- Albert Einstein, *General Theory of Relativity*
- Robert Frost, *North of Boston*
- D. W. Griffith films *The Birth of a Nation*

1916
- Congress enacts Workman’s Compensation
- John Dewey, *Democracy and Education*
- Hilda Doolittle, *Sea Garden*
- Ring Lardner, *You Know Me Al*
- Amy Lowell, *Men, Women, and Ghosts*
- Carl Sandburg, *Chicago Poems*
- Mark Twain, *The Mysterious Stranger*

1917
- Russian Revolution
- United States enters into World War I
- Pulitzer Prize established
- T. S. Eliot, *Prufrock and Other Observations*
- Edna St. Vincent Millay, *Renascence and Other Poems*
- Ezra Pound, *The Cantos*
- Edith Wharton, *Summer*
chronology

1918  Influenza epidemic
      Willa Cather, *My Ántonia*
      Theodore Dreiser, *Free and Other Stories*
      Mary E. Wilkins Freeman, *Edgwater People*
      Georgia Douglas Johnson, *The Heart of a Woman and Other Poems*
      Edith Wharton, *The Marne*

1919  Congress passes Prohibition Act
      Founding of American Communist Party
      Versailles Treaty
      Sherwood Anderson, *Winesburg, Ohio*
      Amy Lowell, *Pictures of the Floating World*
      John Reed, *Ten Days that Shook the World*

1920  Nineteenth Amendment gives women the right to vote
      F. Scott Fitzgerald, *This Side of Paradise*
      Robert Frost, *Mountain Interval*
      Sinclair Lewis, *Main Street*
      Eugene O’Neill, *The Emperor Jones*
      Ezra Pound, *Hugh Selwyn Mauberly*
      Edith Wharton, *The Age of Innocence* and *In Morocco*

1921  Alice Paul founds National Woman’s Party
      Sherwood Anderson, *The Triumph of the Egg*
      John Dos Passos, *Three Soldiers*
      F. Scott Fitzgerald, *Flappers and Philosophers*
      Edith Wharton receives the Pulitzer Prize for *The Age of Innocence*
      Anzia Yezierska, *Hungry Hearts*

1922  Supreme Court upholds 19th Amendment granting women
      the right to vote
      Willa Cather, *One of Ours*
      T. S. Eliot, *The Waste Land*
      Sinclair Lewis, *Babbitt*
      Eugene O’Neill, *The Hairy Ape*
      Edith Wharton, *The Glimpses of the Moon*
      Anzia Yezierska, *Salome of the Tenements*

1923  Steelworkers negotiate an eight-hour workday
      Willa Cather, *A Lost Lady*
      Robert Frost, *New Hampshire*
      Wallace Stevens, *Harmonium*
      Jean Toomer, *Cane*
      William Carlos Williams, *Spring and All*
Chronology

1924
- The Teapot Dome scandal
- Restrictive immigration laws passed by Congress
- Marianne Moore, *Observations*
- Eugene O’Neill, *Desire under the Elms*
- Edith Wharton, *Old New York*

1925
- Scopes trial
  - The *New Yorker* magazine founded by Harold Ross
  - Willa Cather, *The Professor’s House*
  - John Dos Passos, *Manhattan Transfer*
  - Theodore Dreiser, *An American Tragedy*
  - F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*
  - Ernest Hemingway, *In Our Time*
  - Alain Locke, ed., *The New Negro*
  - Anzia Yezierska, *Bread Givers*

1926
- US Marines invade Nicaragua
- Hart Crane, *White Buildings*
- William Faulkner, *Soldier’s Pay*
- Ernest Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises*
- Langston Hughes, *The Weary Blues*

1927
- Charles Lindbergh pilots *The Spirit of St. Louis* in a solo flight from New York to Paris
- Execution of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti
- Willa Cather, *Death Comes for the Archbishop*
- Countee Cullen, *Copper Sun*
- Langston Hughes, *Fine Clothes to the Jew*

1928
- William Mulholland’s St. Francis Dam collapses
  - Djuna Barnes, *Ryder*
  - Nella Larsen, *Quicksand*
  - Eugene O’Neill, *Strange Interlude*

1929
- St. Valentine’s Day massacre
  - “Black Thursday” 24 October, stock market crash
  - Countee Cullen, *Black Christ and Other Poems*
  - William Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury*
  - Ernest Hemingway, *A Farewell to Arms*
  - Nella Larsen, *Passing*

1930
- Television broadcasting begins
  - Hart Crane, *The Bridge*
  - William Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying*
  - Mike Gold, *Jews Without Money*
  - Katherine Anne Porter, *Flowering Judas and Other Stories*
chronology

1931  The “Scottsboro Boys” trial begins
       Pearl S. Buck, The Good Earth
       e. e. cummings, Vivis
       William Faulkner, Sanctuary

1932  Amelia Earhart becomes first woman to make a solo flight across the Atlantic
       Benjamin Nathan Cardozo becomes first Hispanic judge appointed to the US Supreme Court
       Sterling A. Brown, Southern Road
       John Dos Passos, U. S. A.
       Ernest Hemingway, Death in the Afternoon
       Langston Hughes, The Dream Keeper
       Gertrude Stein, Three Lives

1933  Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Federal Emergency Relief Act, Public Works Administration, and Civilian Conservation Corps are created
       Sherwood Anderson, Death in the Woods
       Ernest Hemingway, Winner Take Nothing
       James Weldon Johnson, Along This Way
       Mourning Dove (Okanogan), Coyote Stories

1934  Founding of Federal Housing Administration
       Drought and storms result in the Great Plains “Dust Bowl”
       Kenneth Fearing, 1933
       Lillian Hellman, The Children’s Hour
       Zora Neale Hurston, Jonah’s Gourd Vine
       Edna St. Vincent Millay, Wine from These Grapes
       Ezra Pound, Make it New
       Henry Roth, Call it Sleep

1935  Rural Electrification Administration and Works Progress Administration created
       Harlem riot
       William Faulkner, Pylon
       Ellen Glasgow, Vein of Iron
       Ernest Hemingway, Green Hills of Africa
       Zora Neale Hurston, Mules and Men
       Marianne Moore, Selected Poems

1936  Spanish Civil War begins
       Akron rubber workers strike at the Goodyear tire company
       Djuna Barnes, Nightwood
**Chronology**

1937  
William H. Hastie becomes first African-American federal judge
“Memorial Day Massacre” at Republic Steel in Chicago
Ernest Hemingway, *To Have and Have Not*
Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
Younghill Kang, *East Goes West*
John Steinbeck, *Of Mice and Men*
Wallace Stevens, *The Man with the Blue Guitar*

1938  
House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) founded
William Faulkner, *The Unvanquished*
Zora Neale Hurston, *Tell My Horse*
Thornton Wilder, *Our Town*
Richard Wright, *Uncle Tom’s Children*

1939  
Germany signs non-aggression pact with Russia and invades Poland
World War II begins
William Faulkner, *The Wild Palms*
Lillian Helman, *The Little Foxes*
Zora Neale Hurston, *Moses: Man of the Mountain*
Katherine Anne Porter, *Pale Horse, Pale Rider*
John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*