



MODERN LITERATURE AND THOUGHT OF THE WEST SINCE 1800

COLT 251G

TUESDAY, THURSDAY 9:30-10:50

PROFESSOR ADAM SPANOS

What were modernity, modernization, modernism? What was modernization's achievements and costs? How did western Europe and the United States come to dominate the world? Who dissented? How did modernity change the way we perceive reality and tell stories about ourselves? How is modernity remembered? How should it be remembered? Are we still modern? Have we ever been?

This course will study major works and minority voices that articulated a vision of the epochal changes underway in the modern era: romanticism, nationalism, racism, slavery, war, imperialism, acceleration, the state, the culture industry, scientific rationality, democracy, communism, secularism, slavery, and emancipation. How were these projects experienced? How have writers tried to represent and shape those experiences?

Readings by Kant, Goethe, Hegel, Percy Shelley, Marx, Nietzsche, Dostoevsky, Weber, Freud, Conrad, Lukács, Woolf, Kafka, Bulosan, Auerbach, Saidiya Hartman, CLR James, WEB Du Bois, Fanon, Beauvoir, Sartre, Adorno, Said, Jameson, Morrison, Wynter, and Balibar.