

1914-1939

MODERNISM

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Picasso's *Still Life on a Table*



Picasso's *Guernica*



Dali's *The Persistence of Memory*



A Little Background

- Up until the beginning of World War I, many people believed in the American Dream, and these are the basic concepts of it:
 - America is a land of opportunity.
 - Progress is good, and we can expect life to get better and better.
 - The independent, self-sufficient person will triumph.

Big Things Happened in the Modern Period

- The country entered World War I in 1917.
- Prohibition in 1919 ushered in the Jazz Age.
- Women won the right to vote in 1920.
- The Stock Market Crash of 1929 began the chain of events leading to the Great Depression.


In short, it was a time of turmoil and disillusionment.

Elements of Modernism

1. Emphasis on bold experimentation in style and form, reflecting the fragmentation of society.
2. Rejection of traditional themes, subject, and forms.
3. Sense of disillusionment and loss of faith in the American Dream.
4. Rejection of the sentimental and artificial.



More elements...

5. Rejection of a “perfect” hero in favor of one who is flawed and disillusioned, but shows grace under pressure.
 6. Interest in the inner workings of the human mind, sometimes expressed in new narrative techniques like stream of consciousness.
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Other terms associated with Modernism

Harlem Renaissance

Imagist Poetry





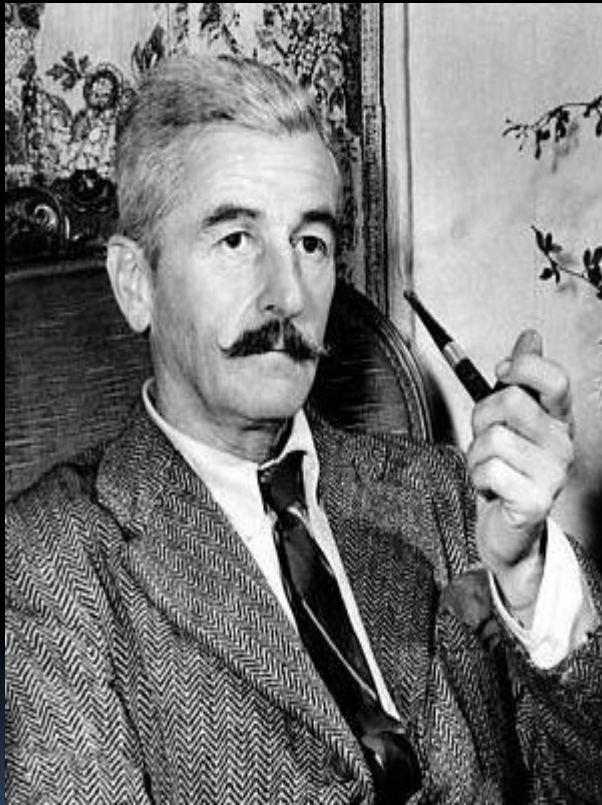
Writers from the Modern Era

F. Scott Fitzgerald, author



- *The Great Gatsby*
- *This Side of Paradise*
- *The Beautiful and the Damned*

William Faulkner, author



- *The Sound and the Fury*
- *The Unvanquished*
- *Absalom, Absalom!*
- "A Rose for Emily"

Robert Frost, poet



- "The Road Not Taken"
- "Mending Wall"
- "Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening"

Eudora Welty, author



- *Delta Wedding*
- *The Optimist's Daughter*
- "Why I Live at the P.O."
- "A Worn Path"
- "The Petrified Man"

Flannery O'Connor



- "A Good Man is Hard to Find"
- "Good Country People"
- "Everything that Rises Must Converge"

Zora Neale Hurston, author



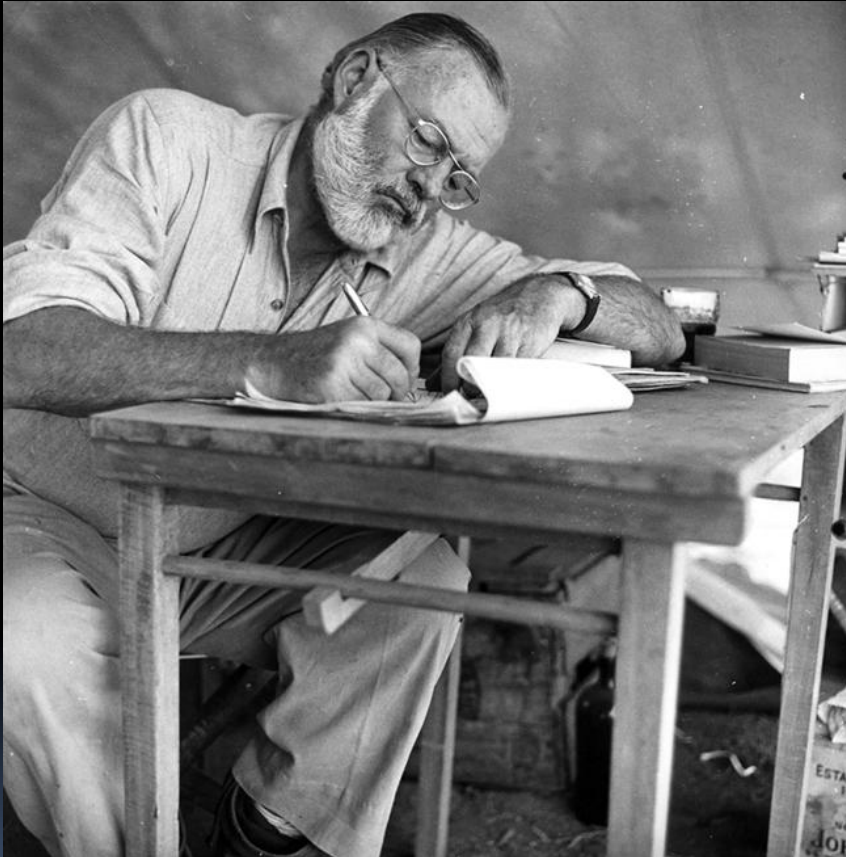
- *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
- *Dust Tracks on a Road*
- Various short stories

Langston Hughes, poet/ playwright



- “The Weary Blues”
- “The Negro Speaks of Rivers”

Ernest Hemingway, author



- *The Old Man and the Sea*
- *A Farewell to Arms*
- *The Sun Also Rises*
- *For Whom the Bell Tolls*