

EN 490 Independent Study (3) T.S. Eliot: Modernism and Faith Winter 2005

Dr. Tim Heath

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Class Schedule: Fridays 2:30-3:45 or by appointment

Required Texts

Appropriate editions of T.S. Eliot's major works:

"The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufock"

The Four Quartets

"The Waste Land"

"The Journey of the Magi"

"Preludes"

"Ash Wednesday"

"The Hollow Men"

"Choruses from the Rock"

"The Use of Poetry and the Use of Criticism"

"The Function of Criticism"

"Tradition and Individual Talent"

"Religion and Literature"

"Church and State"

"Christianity and Society"

"A Christian Community"

"Christian' or 'Pagan"

"Private Religions"

The Three Voices of Poetry

Select criticism of Eliot's work will also be read.

Course Objectives

This class is a study in both a major author and a major movement—T.S. Eliot and modernism, respectively. Eliot's role in high modernism remains one of the most significant of all the founders and participants in this literary movement; moreover, unlike many of his

contemporaries, Eliot contributed to the literature of modernism and helped to theorize the aims of art, especially literature, for his times. This course, then, studies the major poetry of Eliot, as well as his key prose works that treat the ends of literature. Special emphasis will be given to Eliot's exploration of faith and unbelief in his poetry and to Eliot's social criticism on Christianity, society, and literature.

Course Requirements and Grading

Two major papers, all reading, and discussion of key texts fulfill the course's requirements. If appropriate, a public presentation of one paper may be arranged.