

CHRONOLOGY

- 1901 Theodore Dreiser publishes *Sister Carrie*
- 1903 Frank Norris publishes *The Pit*
- 1906 Upton Sinclair publishes *The Jungle*
- 1907 Henry James publishes *The American Scene*
- 1912 Harriet Monroe founds the magazine *Poetry* in Chicago
- 1913 *Poetry* publishes Ezra Pound's manifesto of "Imagism"; his guiding principle is "use no superfluous word"; he defines an image as "that which presents an intellectual and emotional complex in an instant of time"
- Vachel Lindsay publishes *General William Booth Enters into Heaven and Other Poems*
- Gertrude Stein publishes *Tender Buttons*
- Opening of the "Armory Show" (International Exhibition of Modern Art) in New York City
- Robert Frost publishes *A Boy's Will*
- the first Model T Ford car comes out of the assembly line
- 1914 Robert Frost publishes *North of Boston*
- Beginning of World War I
- 1915 Edgar Lee Masters publishes *Spoon River Anthology*
- 1916 Carl Sandburg publishes *Chicago Poems*
- 1918 end of World War I
- 1922 James Joyce publishes *Ulysses*; T. S. Eliot publishes *The Waste Land*; Katharine Mansfield publishes *The Garden Party*; Virginia Woolf publishes *Jacob's Room*

key words: experimentation, complexity, attention to form and style

Norman Cantor, *Twentieth Century Culture, Modernism to Deconstruction* (1988):

Characteristics of Modernism: emphasis on the micro rather than the macrocosm, on the individual rather than the social;

interest in self-referentiality, art about art

a tendency toward the disjointed, disintegrating, and discordant VS Victorian harmony

elitism, Modernist art stressed complexity and difficulty

new openness in sexuality

art as the highest form of human achievement

Modernist writing is concerned with aesthetics

A focus on social, spiritual, or personal collapse

A focus on the city; an ambivalent attitude toward technology

In short: a series of attempts to increase and change modes of representation. Modernist literature: rebellious, questioning, doubtful, introspective but confident in its aesthetic conviction.