

An Annotated Reading List

March 2006

Critical texts are accompanied by a short explanation of their relevance. I expect to reference many more critical texts than are listed here through the aid of several relevant bibliographies. Texts (both critical and primary) which I have already read are denoted with an asterisk.

Philosophical, Theoretical, and Critical Texts:

- Auerbach, Erich. *Mimesis: The Representation of Reality in Western Literature*.
A book which deals with the Wittgensteinian notion of how language impacts and delimits thought.
- Austin, J.L. *How to Do Things with Words*.^{*}
A necessary text as the basis for Derrida's "Signature, event, context," but also for the idea of the "performative utterance" (speech-as-action) and its pervasiveness in all of language.
- Bergson, Henri. *Time and Free Will* and *An Introduction to Metaphysics*.
Two books which had a great impact on the Modernist authors for their concepts of Heraclitean flux, the non-linear flow of time, and the importance of apprehension via intuition rather than analysis.
- Bloom, Harold. *The Anxiety of Influence*.^{*}
An important theoretical text that deals with the implications of authors reading each other, an idea which is at the very heart of Modernist writing as well as symptomatic of the "shared language," whose necessity I plan to explore in Modernist literature.
- de Saussure, Ferdinand. *Course in General Linguistics*.^{*}
Important as the basis for all discussion of the "sign" and "signification" within language.
- Derrida, Jacques. *Limited Inc.*,^{*} *Of Grammatology*, *White Mythology*.
The essay "Signature, event, context" introduces the idea of turning "infelicity into delight," that is, making use (rather than lamentation) of the impossibility of completely conveying a message from one person to another, or even from one person to himself. I believe that this is an important task of the Modernist authors. But I feel it is also important to encounter other of Derrida's important ideas such as "difference" (in *Grammatology*) and his theory of metaphor (in *Mythology*).
- Heidegger, Martin. *Letter on Humanism*.^{*}
Perhaps this will not be the only Heidegger text which I reference, but I know that it is important in that it serves as a basis for the twentieth century's concept of human thought as created and constituted by human language.
- Jameson, Frederic. *The Prison House of Language*.
A much-recommended and auspiciously-titled account of structuralism and Russian formalism – an aid and augmentation of Saussure.
- Lee, Hermione. *Virginia Woolf*.
Along with Quentin Bell's biography of his aunt Virginia, probably the prevailing biography of Virginia Woolf (I will refer to Bell's biography as well).
- Nalbantian, Suzanne. *Aesthetic autobiography: from life to art in Marcel Proust, James Joyce, Virginia Woolf, and Anaïs Nin*.
This was a provocative title – I hope that this book explores the connection between the life of Virginia Woolf and her fictional works.

- Nietzsche, Friedrich. *On Truth and Lie, On the Advantages and Disadvantages of History for Life,* Twilight of the Idols,** and *The Gay Science.**
How can I avoid Nietzsche? His works deal with the most central concepts for this thesis – lingual concerns, the idea of the self, the other, and performance, the championing of appearance over essence, and the list goes on.
- Rehder, Robert. *Stevens, Williams, Crane, and the motive for metaphor.*
Another interesting title – the “motive for metaphor” is precisely what I would like to explore in these Modernist authors; why the recourse to literature? why to poetry or (in Woolf’s case) poetry-like prose?
- Ricks, Christopher. *Allusion to the Poets.**
A collection of essays which does not discuss any of my main subjects directly, but stands as a good counter-balance to Bloom’s argument in *The Anxiety of Influence*. Ricks is also a preeminent Eliot scholar, and I plan to reference his works in my study of Eliot. (In addition, I am doing some research with Prof. Ricks at Boston University this summer, so I hope to have him as a reference should I have any Eliot questions!)
- Ricoeur, Paul. *Hermeneutics and the human sciences : essays on language, action, and interpretation,** [I’ve read several parts of this], *The Rule of Metaphor.*
The *Hermeneutics* essays are very relevant in that Ricoeur is discussing the *act* of reading – a notion which Modernist authors are conscious of and which I will try to explore in interpreting their works. I am also interested in seeing how his *Metaphor* plays against Derrida’s concepts in *White Mythology*, and how these together impact my thesis.
- Southam, B.C. *A guide to the selected poems of T.S. Eliot.**
The main guide to allusions in Eliot’s *Collected Poems*.
- Wittgenstein, Ludwig. *The Philosophical Investigations.**
My favorite philosophical work, and one which introduces the idea of a “language game” and the impossibility of a “private language” – both of which are inherent to my concept of Modernist literature as trying to mediate between accurate-signification and communication.

Bibliographies:

- Dunne, Tom. *Gerard Manley Hopkins : a comprehensive bibliography.*
- Kirkpatrick, B.J. *A Bibliography of Virginia Woolf.*
- Majumdar, Robin. *Virginia Woolf : an annotated bibliography of criticism, 1915-1974*
- Ricks, Beatrice. *T. S. Eliot, a bibliography of secondary works.*
- Schwartz, Joseph and Robert Schweik. *Hart Crane: a descriptive bibliography.*

Main Primary Texts:

- Woolf, Virginia.
 - Novels: *Jacob’s Room, Mrs. Dalloway,* To the Lighthouse,* Orlando,* The Waves,* The Years, Between the Acts.**
 - *Moments of Being* [five posthumously-published theoretical/autobiographical essays].
 - *A Moment’s Liberty: The Shorter Diary.**
 - *The Letters of Virginia Woolf.*
- Hopkins, Gerard. *Poems and Prose.**
- Eliot, T.S.
 - Poems: *Inventions of the March Hare,* Collected Poems 1909-1962.**

- Criticism: *The Sacred Wood*,* *Essays on Poetry and Poets*.
- Crane, Hart.
 - *Complete Poems of Hart Crane*.*
 - *Letters 1916-1932*.

Other Primary Texts:

- Cunningham, Michael. *The Hours*.*
- Joyce, James. *Ulysses*.*
- Stephens, Wallace. *Collected Poems*.*
- Williams, William Carlos.
 - *Imaginations*,* *The Collected Poems*, *The Collected Stories*.
- Woolf, Virginia, Vanessa Bell, and Thoby Stephen. *Hyde Park Gate News : the Stephen Family Newspaper*.
- Poems of other Modernist poets (i.e. Pound, Cummings, World War I poets) and their precursors (i.e. Keats, Dickinson, Whitman).