**20th Century American Literature**

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**Introduction to Modernism**

1. What does Modernism mean?
   1. Modernism represents, more than anything, a way of thinking.
   2. The word modernism comes from the Greek word "modernus." It means "a new way, different from the past."
   3. It is the opposite of "traditional."
2. New Directions:
   1. New Ways of Thinking
      1. Psychology: Freud and the Subconscious
      2. Modern Philosophy: Theories of Knowledge
      3. Physical Sciences: Einstien and the Theory of Relativity
      4. Biology: Darwin and the Theory of Natural Selection
   2. A New Way of Living
      1. Electronic Communication
      2. Electricity
      3. Transportation
      4. Modern Industrial Methods: Assembly Line
   3. New Global Challenges
      1. Class Struggle
      2. Socialism and Communism
      3. Capitalism
      4. Imperialism
   4. World War I
      1. The Horror
      2. The Disease
      3. The Death Toll
      4. The Result
   5. Hopelessness and Pessimism about the Future
      1. The End of Religion
      2. The End of the "American Dream"
      3. The End of American Exceptionalism
3. When Did Modernism Begin? (There are a lot of different opinions.)
   1. Virginia Woolf
   2. The 14th Century: The Renaissance
      1. The middle class
      2. The Reformation
      3. Urbanization
      4. Printing
   3. The 18th Century: The Enlightenment
      1. The Age of Reason
      2. The Romantic Revolution
      3. The Democratic Revolution
   4. What Happened?
4. Central Ideas
   1. Language
   2. Truth
   3. A Puzzle
   4. Symbolism
   5. Meta-narratives
   6. Character
   7. The Hero
5. Movements
   1. The Age of Innocence (1880-1914)
      1. Henry James
      2. Upton Sinclair
   2. The Lost Generation (1914-1939)
      1. Sherwood Anderson
      2. Ernest Hemingway
      3. William Faulkner
      4. Sinclair Lewis
      5. F. Scott Fitzgerald
      6. Ezra Pound
      7. T.S. Eliot
   3. The Post-War Years. (1939-1955) The beginnings of post-modernism.
   4. Counter-culture (1955-1970) A period when "outsider art" becomes established.
6. Modernism and Art
   1. Visual Arts
   2. Music
   3. Theater
   4. Film
   5. Architecture
   6. Fashion