

SMOLNY BEYOND BORDERS

# French Modernism

Larissa Muravieva





# Larissa Muravieva

Ph.D. in Language Theory and Narratology (2017).

Former faculty member of Smolny Major «Literature» and MA «Film and Art Criticism» (2018-2022).

Postdoc at the Center for the Study of Art and Language, EHESS (2017, 2018).

Research area: Narratology, Cognitive Narratology, French Literature, Autobiography and Autofiction, Media Studies.

## Courses

«Trauma Narratives in Contemporary Russian Literature»

«Autofiction at the Crossroads of Experience and Writing»

# French Modernism

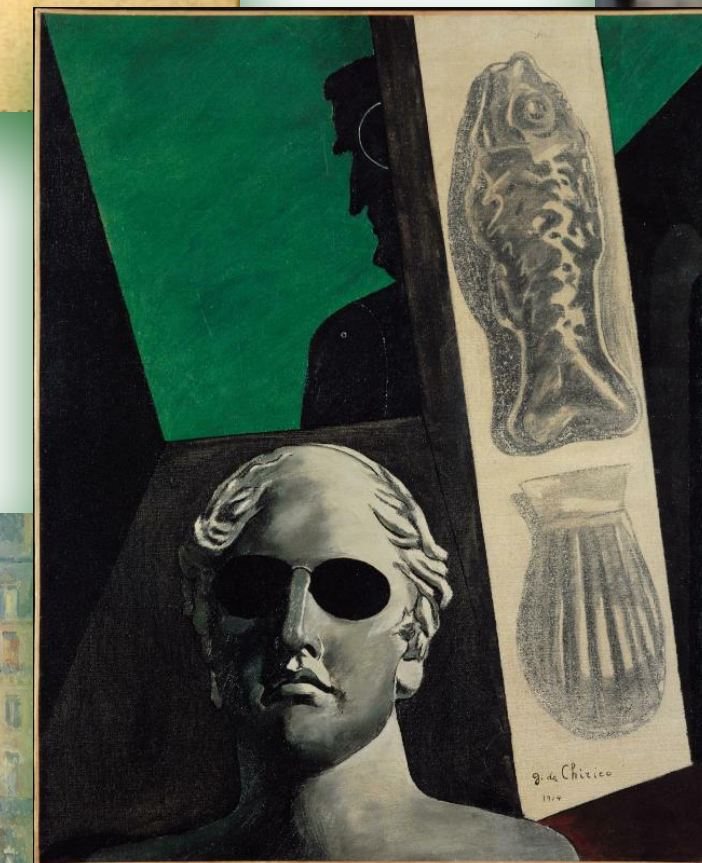
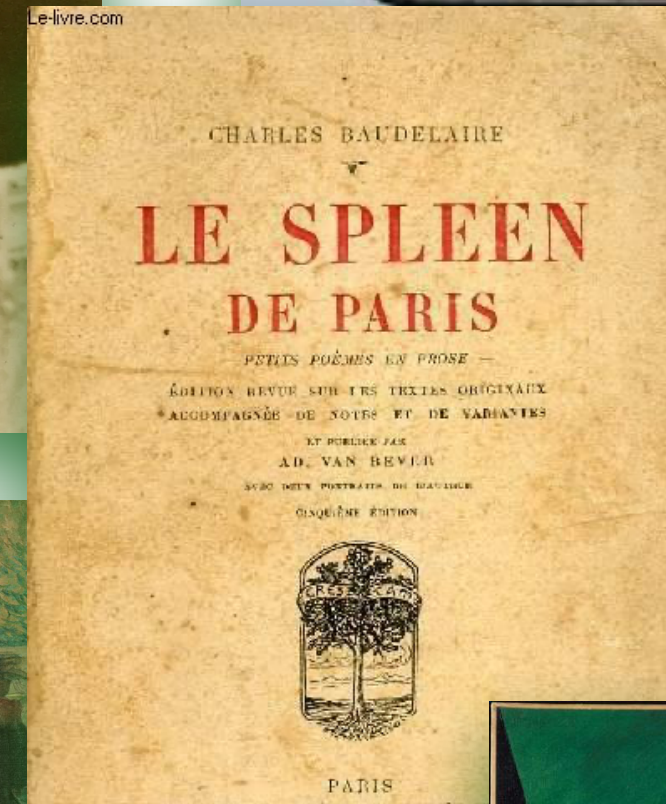
**Core module VI (BCB):** Modernism

**Subject:** LIT

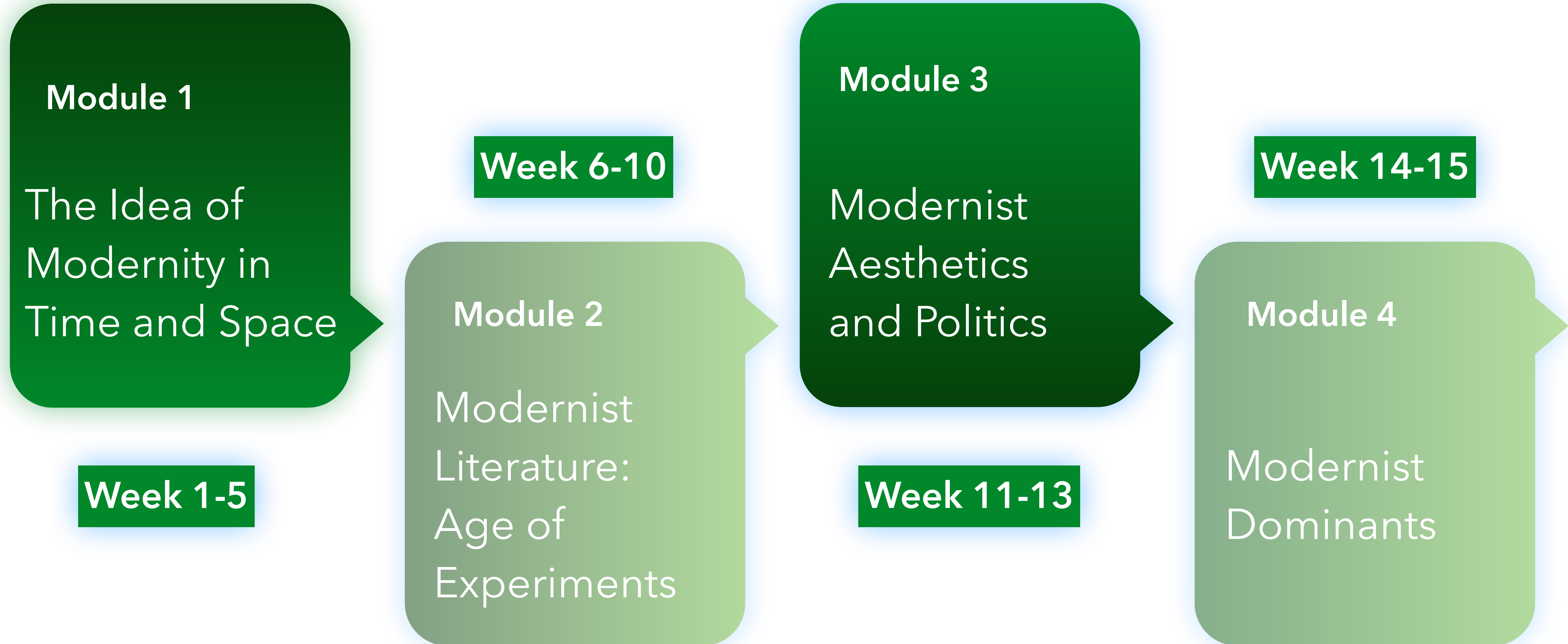
**Language of Instruction:** Russian

**Schedule:** FRIDAY 4:10 – 7:10 PM Berlin

**February 2 – May 17**



# Course structure



# Module 1. The Idea of Modernity in Time and Space

Week 1-5

## Topics:

- Charles Baudelaire and the concept of modernity
- Crisis of Representation: Symbolism - Décadence - *Fin de siècle*. Octave Mirbeau – J.-K. Huysmans
- Stéphane Mallarmé and the birth of modernist poetry
- *Esprit nouveau*: Blaise Cendrars – Guillaume Apollinaire
- Modernism and the Urban Imaginary



## Texts:

- Poems by Charles Baudelaire, «The Painter of Modern Life»
- Octave Mirbeau. «Torture Garden» (fragments)
- J.-K. Huysmans. «À rebours» («Against Nature») (fragments)
- Stéphane Mallarmé «Un coup de dés», poems
- Blaise Cendrars «La Prose du Transsibérien et la Petite Jehanne de France»
- Guillaume Apollinaire «Alcools», «Calligrams», «Zone»
- Walter Benjamin «Paris, Capital of the 19th Century», Georg Simmel, «The Metropolis and Mental Life»
- Etc. ...

# Module 2. Modernist Literature: Age of Experiments

Week 6-10

## Topics:

- André Gide
- Marcel Proust
- Raymond Roussel
- Louis-Ferdinand Céline
- *Beyond Literature: Literature and Arts, Literature and Media*
- Modernist Literature and Photography



## Texts:

- André Gide «The Fruits of the Earth», «The Counterfeiters» (fragments)
- Marcel Proust "Combray I", "Combray II", "Un Amour de Swann"
- Marcel Proust «Time Regained» (fragments)
- Raymond Roussel «Locus Solus»
- L.-F. Céline «Journey to the End of the Night»
- Etc.

# Module 3. Modernist Aesthetics and Politics

Week 11-13



## Topics:

- The idea of Europe: Paul Valéry and Political Thought
- The idea of *engagement* in literature: from Zola to Sartre
- The Woman of Modernism: From the Woman Image to the Image of the Woman Writer. Colette

## Texts:

- Paul Valéry «The Crisis of the Mind», «A look at today's world»
- Janet Lyon, "Cosmopolitanism and Modernism »
- Colette "The Vagabond»
- Etc.

# Module 4. Modernist Dominants

Week 14-15

## Topics:

- Memory
- Narrative
- Modernist Sensibility
- Modernist Imaginary
- Transgression(s)





# Assignments

- 3 Padlet posts:
  - #1 – «response paper»: a letter from a reader to a modernist writer
  - #2 – time and space in the modernist city
  - #3 – Imaginary photo
- Midterm paper
- Final essay & presentation

# Overall information

## French Modernism

**Semester:** Spring 2024

**Schedule:** FRIDAY 4.10 – 7.10 PM Berlin (UTC + 2)

**Number of Bard Credits:** 4

**Max Enrollment:** 22

**Core module VI (BCB):** Modernism

**Language of Instruction:** Russian

**Office Hours:** Before or after class, or by appointment

**Professor:** Larissa Muravieva

