

**OLLSCOIL NA hÉIREANN, GAILLIMH  
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY**

**SEMESTER II EXAMINATIONS, 2004/2005**

**THIRD & FOURTH ARTS EXAMINATION**

**EN386: Literature and Culture: (Post) Modernism**

**Professor P. Crotty  
Professor J. Scattergood  
Professor Kevin Barry  
Dr. Sean Ryder  
Dr. Sinead Mooney**

**TIME ALLOWED: THREE HOURS**

**ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS: ONE FROM EACH SECTION**

**PLEASE USE A SEPARATE ANSWER BOOK FOR EACH SECTION**

**SECTION A: Modernism**

1. Write an essay on the importance of the urban as theme and setting in modernist literature. Refer to the work of TWO authors on your course.
2. "The single most important characteristic of modernist writing is its iconoclasm towards inherited forms and/or attitudes." Discuss in relation to the work of TWO authors on your course.
3. "Every day we find ourselves doing, saying, or thinking things which would have been impossible to our fathers" (Virginia Woolf in 'How It Strikes a Contemporary' 1923). In what ways does a knowledge of the social and cultural background inform your understanding of modernist writing? Refer to the work of TWO authors on the course.

**Contd./...**

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4. "The modernist text typically focuses more on subjective and psychological processes than on external event." Evaluate this statement in relation to the work of TWO authors on the course.
5. "Modernist literature offers contradictory perspectives on the value of modernity." Discuss this statement with reference to the work TWO authors on the course.

### **SECTION B. Postmodernism**

6. Choosing examples from TWO of the following areas, suggest how 'postmodernist' might be distinguished from 'modernist': literature, visual arts, architecture.
7. With reference to at least THREE theorists from your course reading list, describe some of the debates about the meaning of the 'postmodern'.
8. "In a postmodern culture, art and trash are indistinguishable." Write an essay in response to this statement.
9. Outline some of the relationships between feminism and postmodernism.
10. Discuss some of the aesthetic strategies of postmodern literary writing. Your answer should make some reference to texts discussed in lectures, but you may also refer to additional material if you wish.

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**END**