

Hardcore Modernism

The slight provocation of this title is, of course, intentional. Yet while we will not deal with pornography in this seminar (don't get your hopes up), we will still go to extremes in other areas. Consider how the *Cambridge Dictionary* defines "hardcore:" "having extreme qualities that are attractive to people with a very strong belief or interest in something or a lot of determination to do it." Voilà. That is an apt description of those American modernist writers who in their texts pushed the boundaries of the accepted and developed new and provocative forms of literary expression and who count as major representatives of the modernist project: Gertrude Stein, John Dos Passos and William Faulkner. In this seminar we will do in-depth readings of some of their most experimental artworks, among them excerpts from Gertrude Stein's *Tender Buttons* (1914), John Dos Passos' *Manhattan Transfer* (1925) and William Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury* (1929). Before registering for this seminar, please consider: To make this seminar a rewarding experience, you need to be curious to deal with challenging texts. But if you do, this seminar has every potential to make you experience the power of fiction and to fall in love with "difficult texts."