

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910822068903321
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Titolo	Modernism : A Short Introduction
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Hoboken : , : John Wiley & Sons, Incorporated, , 2004 ©2008
ISBN	9780470777107 9781405108539
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (168 pages)
Collana	Wiley Blackwell Introductions to Literature Ser.
Disciplina	820.9/112
Soggetti	American literature -- 20th century -- History and criticism English literature -- 20th century -- History and criticism Modernism (Literature) -- English-speaking countries
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	Intro -- Modernism: A Short Introduction -- Contents -- Acknowledgements -- Introduction -- 1 H. D., Ezra Pound and Imagism -- 2 T. S. Eliot and Modernist Reading -- 3 'The Waste Land', Nancy Cunard and Mina Loy -- 4 Wallace Stevens and Romantic Legacy -- 5 Wyndham Lewis: Genius and Art -- 6 James Joyce: Ulysses and Love -- 7 D. H. Lawrence: Jazz and Life -- 8 Virginia Woolf: Art and Class -- 9 The Modernity of Adorno and Benjamin -- 10 The Poststructuralist Inflection -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index.
Sommario/riassunto	'David Ayers provides the reader with a series of interlacing readings - all of them original and provocative - of some major texts of Anglo- American modernism. Ayers's central theme is the relation of the linguistic to the social in all its complex "modernist" manifestations. The theories of Benjamin and Adorno, as well as of Derrida, provide an important base for understanding the great poetries and fictions of the period. But Modernism is first and foremost a book of close and acute readings of specific poems and novels - a book at once richly textured and yet also enjoyable to read.' Marjorie Perloff.