

ENGL 4199 || “Modernist Vanguard: The Philosophy and Fiction of Thomas Mann”
Spring 2025



In this one-credit independent study the student will supplement the 3-credit American Vanguards class (ENGL 4365) in order to explore Thomas Mann’s contributions to the Modernist movement. This study will focus on significant themes and narrative qualities found in his literature: philosophical and psychological engagement, exploration of alienation and search for meaning, reflection on the role of art, combination of genres like bildungsroman with modernist experimentation, integration of symbolism and allegory in narrative, and the use of the passage of time. Mann’s unparalleled ability to bring rich and fascinating ideas in work such as *The Magic Mountain*, *Buddenbrooks*, and *Death in Venice* will allow the student to further understand the broader Modernist movement.

Grade Items/Deliverables: To delve into Thomas Mann’s work in this 1-credit hour course, the student will complete a capstone project by the end of the semester. This will be a 1000+ word research essay on any topic in Mann’s literature. Deliverables in this class will serve as building blocks for the final paper.

There will be weekly short reflection essays on the literature explored that week. An annotated bibliography and (revised thesis) will be due in a one-and-a-half-month interval. Additionally, the student will lecture on Mann’s contributions to the experimental vanguard during a class period.

Working with Canvas technology, the student is developing a DEV Canvas course shell to align with the independent study. This affords practical training in learning management software.