**Literary Modernism**

**General Features**

Modernism was built on a sense of lost community and civilization and was made up of a series of contradictions , embraced multiple features of modern sensibility

* Revolution and conservatism
* Loss of a sense of tradition
* Increasing dominance of technology

**Thematic features**

* Intentional distortion of shapes
* Focus on form rather than meaning
* Breakdown of social norms and cultural values
* Dislocation of meaning and sense from its normal context
* Disillusionment
* Rejection of history and the substitution of a mythical past
* Need to reflect the complexity of modern urban life
* Importance of the unconscious mind
* Interest in the primitive and non-western cultures
* Impossibility of an absolute interpretation of reality
* Overwhelming technological changes

**Formal features of poetry**

* Fragmented form
* Use of free verse
* Juxtaposition of ideas rather than consequential exposition
* Intertextuality
* Use of allusions and multiple association of words
* Borrowings from other cultures and languages

**Formal features of narrative**

* Experimental nature
* Lack of traditional chronological narrative (discontinuous narrative)
* Moving from one level of narrative to another
* A number of different narrators (multiple narrative points of view)
* Self-reflexive about the act of writing and the nature of literature (meta-narrative)
* Use of interior monologue technique
* Use of the stream of consciousness technique
* Focus on a character's consciousness and subconscious