



Modern Poetry

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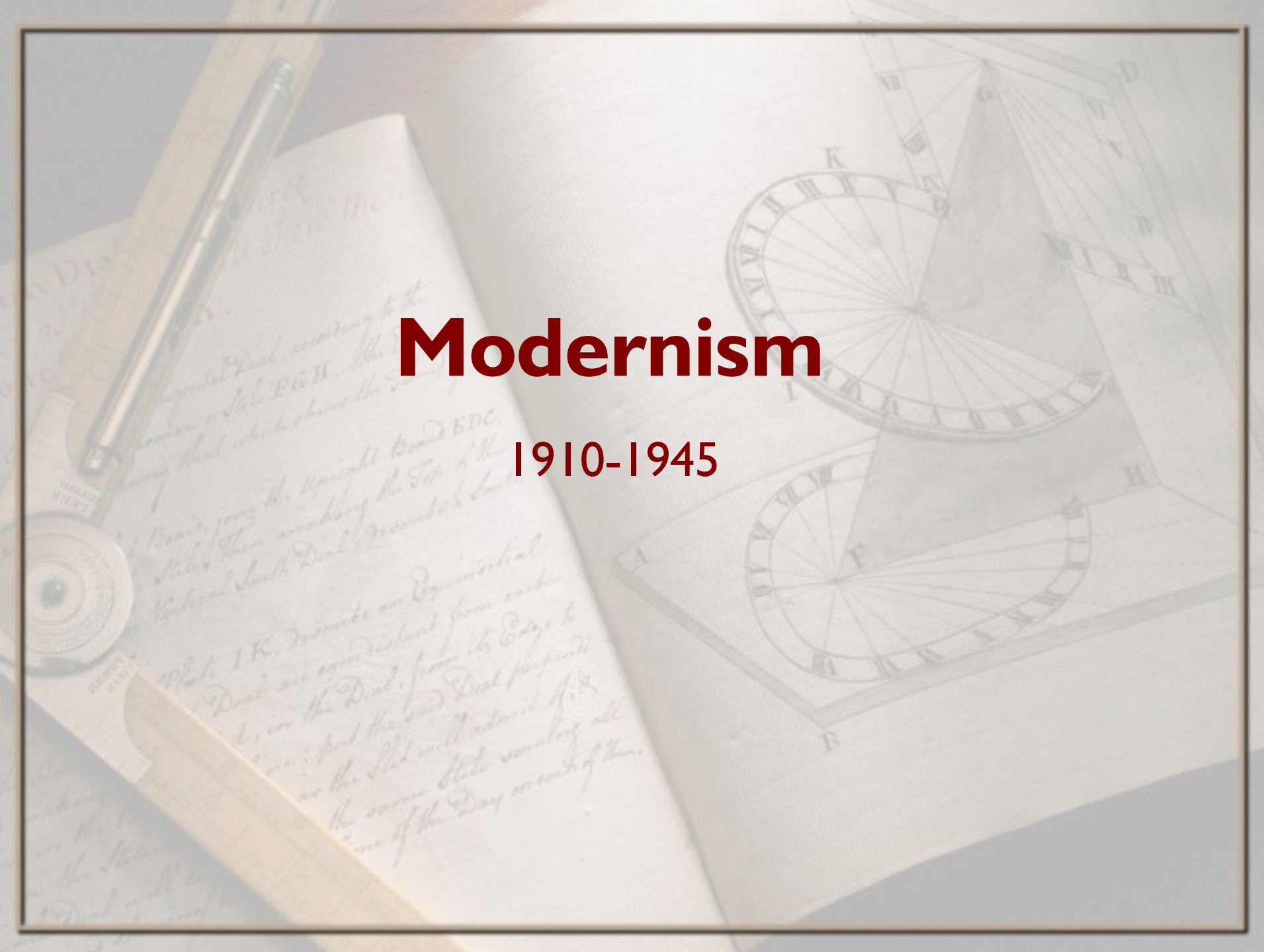
English 4446/5446

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Modernism

1910-1945

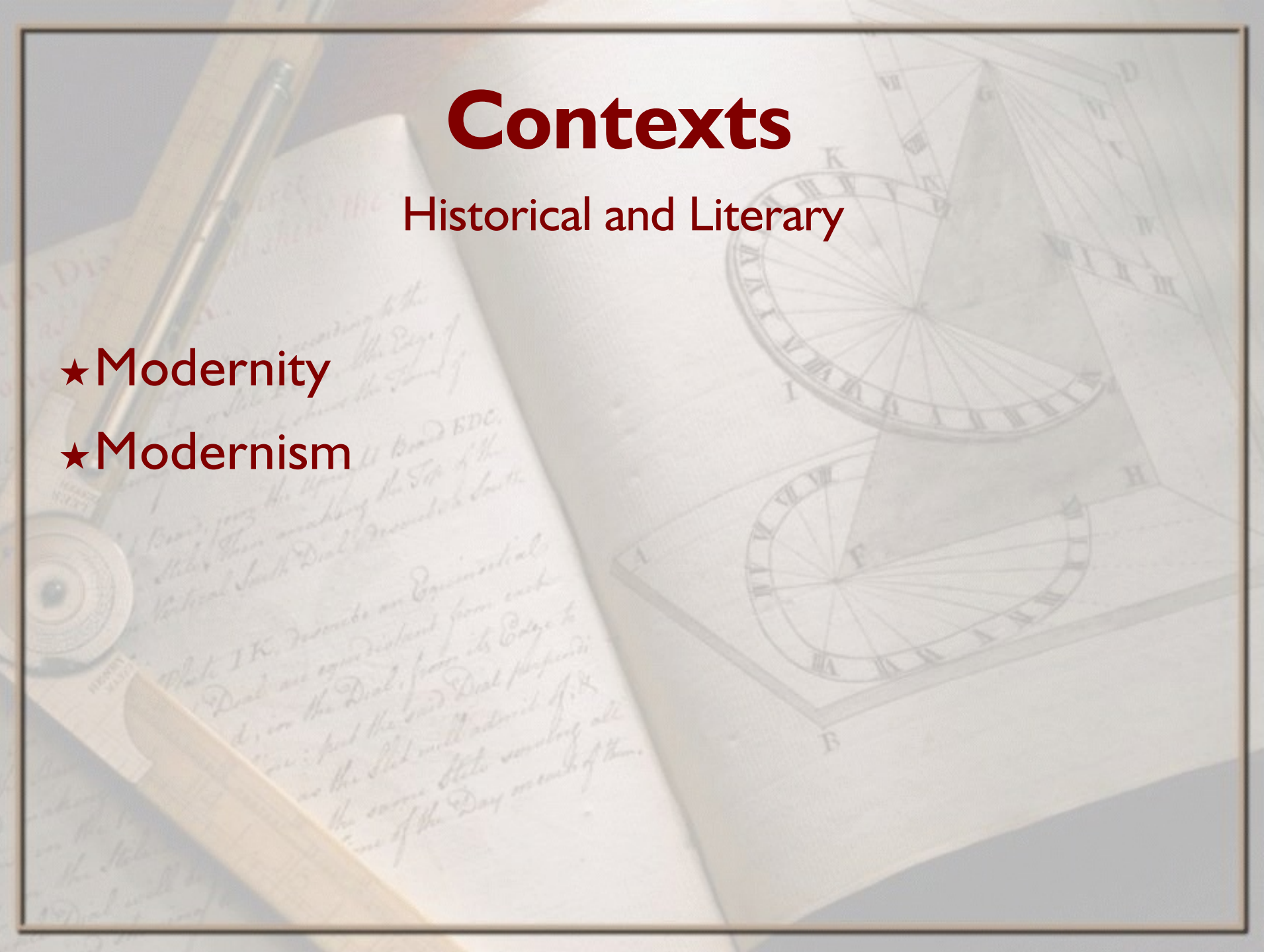


Contexts

Historical and Literary

★ Modernity

★ Modernism



Modernity

Historical Era

from the Industrial Revolution to the mid-1900s

- ★ Industrialization
- ★ Urbanization
- ★ Exponential technological progress
- ★ Rise of mass, popular, consumer culture
- ★ Global political conflicts and modern warfare (World War I and World War II)

Modernism

Literary Period from the late-1800s to 1945

- ★ Crisis of belief in traditional authority,
 - ★ Resulting in the critique of culture that would use its technological progress not for civilization but for mechanized slaughter
 - ★ And the wistful search for new teleological meanings in the fragmentation and flux of the lost generation's waste land.
- ★ Radical experimentation with form,
 - ★ Such that modernism foregoes conventional forms and structures in order to invent new forms and systems of thought adequate to modern experience.

Modernism

Continued

★ Crisis of representation

- ★ Pulp and popular conventions of representation no longer convey the modern experience of reality;
- ★ And so authors find new, utterly impressionistic and perspectivist, ways of representing the real

★ High vs Low

- ★ During modernism, culture becomes bifurcated between the high (academic, elite) and the low (popular, mass).