Literary Movements
Realism: ordinary middle-class life

- Eakins:
- Mrs. Van Buren
Realism: Focus on ordinary experience

Homer: Berry Pickers
Realism: focus on average American

Tavernier:
- In a Wildwood Glen
Regionalism: create a sense of place

- Eakins:
- Cowboy Singing
Naturalism: focus on the extremes of experience

Luks:
Bleeker & Carmine Streets 1905
Naturalism: Men cannot control their destinies

Bellow: Docks of New York

1912
Naturalism: Lives of the powerless

Sloan: McSorley’s Bar

1912
Modernism:

- An international artistic and philosophical movement in response to alienation & social breakdown of World War I
- Encompassed art, literature, music
- Conviction that ordinary life had been destroyed or shown false
- Belief that art should reflect chaos and incoherence of modern world
- Artist’s role: create some order and meaning from the chaos through imagination
These fought in any case
And some believing,
pro domo, in any case
Some quick to arm,
Some for adventure,
Some from fear of weakness,
Some from fear of censure,
Some for love of slaughter, in imagination
Learning later….
Died some, pro patria,
non “dulce” non “et décor”
Walked eye-deep in hell
Believing in old men’s lies,
then unbelieving
Came home, home to a lie,
Home to many deceits…..
Daring as never before, wastage as never before.
Young blood and high blood,
Fair cheeks, and fine bodies;
Fortitude as never before
Frankness as never before,
Disillusions as never told
in the old days,
Hysterias, trench confessions,
Laughter out of dead bellies.
There died a myriad,
And of the best, among them,
For an old bitch gone in the teeth,
For a botched civilization…
For two gross of broken statues,
For a few thousand battered books.
The Artist’s Role: Reconstruction

- Experiments with form: fragments pieced together
- Experiments with structure, time
- Experiments with point of view, stream of consciousness
- Absence of explanation, connections, resolution
- Use of new material: sexually explicit, shocking, slang, folklore
- Allusions to past, history, classics
- Focus on sophisticated reader willing to struggle with meaning
- Quest for coherence, meaning
Modernism

Duchamp:

Nude Descending a Staircase
Modernism

Davies: Dancers

1914
Modernism

- Picasso: Violin & Guitar
Modernism

- Picasso: Woman in Hat