

COURSE SYLLABUS

YEAR COURSE OFFERED: 2014

SEMESTER COURSE OFFERED: Fall

DEPARTMENT: English

COURSE NUMBER: 3353

NAME OF COURSE: Modern American Fiction (1900-1940)

NAME OF INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Patricia Lee Yongue

The information contained in this class syllabus is subject to change without notice. Students are expected to be aware of any additional course policies presented by the instructor during the course.

Learning Objectives

1. Students participating responsibly will gain knowledge about and insight into the modernist era of American fiction and will be introduced to applications of gender and cultural criticism as well as to careful reading of the language and processes of literary texts.
2. Students participating responsibly will increase their ability to read literature closely and to analyze literature critically.
3. Students participating responsibly will increase their understanding of and skill in writing from a position of informed opinion about a topic, issues, etc.

Major Assignments/Exams

Students will be responsible for informed, engaging class discussion and for several in-class writing assignments, including exams. Writing assignments may require preliminary research. All essays using research must be properly documented; that is, information, ideas, and text solicited, purchased, or otherwise procured from outside sources/benefactors must be acknowledged and acknowledged in the proper professional format. Failure to comply with documentation policy will result in failure of the project and, if plagiarism is detected, may result in more serious penalty, such as a formal hearing and/or failure in the class. Please consult the UH Academic Honesty Policy. Quizzes may be administered to check reading and listening. There will be a midterm (date and format to be announced) and a final examination (format to be announced) on the date and at the time scheduled by the university.

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Required Reading

Crane, *Maggie*

Cather, *A Lost Lady*

Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*

Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises*

Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

The Blackboard/Learn component of this course is an important repository of the technical requirements for this course and also of some, but not necessarily all, lecture/study/discussion topics and background information.

Recommended Reading

Instructor will make recommendations throughout the semester.

List of discussion/lecture topics

Fiction in this time frame (1900-1940) is responsive to Modernism, an early twentieth century artistic movement in western culture currently receiving a great deal of scholarly attention. We will pay attention ourselves to modernist practices and perspectives, but we will also consider the socio-cultural/historical backgrounds of American fiction, including popular fiction, and the origins and construction of heroism. We will consider such intellectual movements as literary naturalism and existentialism, which overlap modernism. My emphasis tends toward studying texts as both constructing representations of and representing culture and gender. Of late, a renewed interest in the modernist period focuses on its similarities to the first decade of the twenty-first century.