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ENG 5061-001: Fictions of the Twenties-in Black and White

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English 5061:
Fictions of the Twenties—in Black and White

TEXTS
1920: Age of Innocence, Edith Wharton
   "Bernice Bobs Her Hair," F. Scott Fitzgerald (xerox)
1922: "Winter Dreams," F. Scott Fitzgerald (xerox)
       Babbitt, Sinclair Lewis
       "Miss Furr and Miss Skeene," Gertrude Stein (xerox)
       ["The Day of Atonement," Samuel Raphaelson (xerox)]
1923: A Lost Lady, Willa Cather
1925: Manhattan Transfer, John Dos Passos
       short fiction in The New Negro, ed. Alain Locke
       Gentlemen Prefer Blondes, Anita Loos
1926: The Sun Also Rises, Ernest Hemingway
       short fiction from Fire!! in Harlem Renaissance Reader
1927: The Jazz Singer (film)
1928: Quicksand, Nella Larsen
1929: "That Evening Sun," William Faulkner (xerox)

ASSIGNMENTS
Reading: We will read and discuss the works on the syllabus in chronological order. Each member of the class will also read a magazine of the period and one additional work of fiction.

Writing: A two-page typed response to the reading should be turned in at the beginning of the class period on one of the class days devoted to each of authors we read. (On days when several authors are assigned, you may choose one of them as your focus.) You will also write responses to your outside reading for reports. A formal critical essay will be due late in the semester. There will be a final exam.

Presenting: You will report to the class on a book you selected to supplement our reading list. This presentation should include a handout with full bibliographic information, quotations, and any other relevant material. You will also make another brief presentation describing the contents of a magazine published during this period. *If you get a copy of your handouts to me the day before your presentations, I will be responsible for having copies made. Otherwise, I will assume that you have taken care of it.

OBJECTIVES
Our goal is to familiarize ourselves with fiction written by Americans during the 1920s so that we have a basis for understanding and assessing the validity and usefulness of the various paradigms that have been used to describe the era ("Jazz Age," "Harlem Renaissance"), the fiction ("modernist"), the writers and their characters ("a lost generation"). We will pay particular attention to the way these writers and their fictions depict this time period and, especially, the way they deal with issues of race, ethnicity, and nation.

GRADES
40% Responses (20% at mid-term + 20% at end of term)
20% Participation, including attendance
10% Presentations + Handouts
15% Paper
15% Final Exam
The bottom line: grades are not curved. 91%-100% =A; 81%-90% =B; 71%-80% =C; 61%-70% =D; 60% or less =F.
Tentative Reading Schedule + Due Dates

Week 1 (June 8-11):
Intro. (M)
Wharton (TWR)

Week 2 (June 15-18):
Fitzgerald (both stories, M)
Lewis (1st 7 chapters) + Stein (T)
Cather (WR)

Week 3 (June 22-25):
Dos Passos (MTW)
magazines in Booth Library (R)

Week 4 (June 29-30; July 1-2):
magazine reports (MTW) +
outside reading (MTWR—no class meeting Thursday)

Week 5 (July 6-9):
Logs DUE (M) +
outside reading reports (MTW)
fiction in New Negro (R)

Week 6 (July 13-16):
fiction in New Negro (M)
Loos (TW)
begin Hemingway (R)

Week 7 (July 20-23):
*Sign up for conferences to discuss papers this week
Hemingway (M)
fiction in Fire!! (T)
“The Day of Atonement,” Raphaelson (W) +
Jazz Singer--film (WR)

Week 8 (July 27-30):
Larsen (MT)
Faulkner (W) +
Logs DUE (W)
Papers DUE (R) +
FINAL EXAM—*8:00 - 10:00 (R)
Things You Need to Know about this Class

COURSE POLICIES

1.) You must turn in all writing assignments to pass this course.

2.) Your written work needs to be available in class as scheduled on the syllabus. In most cases, in-class work cannot be made up.

3.) Attendance counts. If you have 4 or more unexcused absences, your course grade will drop a full letter grade.

4.) Plagiarism—taking someone else's words or ideas and using them in your own writing without giving written credit to the author—is a serious academic offense. Using plagiarized material in any of your papers may result in a failing grade for this course and may also incur more far-reaching university penalties (e.g. the violation would go on record with the judicial affairs office). If you are unsure what plagiarism is, find out. The tutors in the Writing Center (CH 301; phone 5929) will be happy to work with you on issues of citation & documentation or to provide you with the resources you need to do it yourself.

5.) Formal essays should be typed (or printed) and double-spaced. If at all possible, work on a computer so you can revise easily.

6.) If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.