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ENG 5010-001: Fictions of the Twenties

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English 5010:  
Fictions of the Twenties

TEXTS
1920: Age of Innocence, Edith Wharton  
   This Side of Paradise, F. Scott Fitzgerald
1922: Babbitt, Sinclair Lewis
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
1928: Quicksand, Nella Larsen  
   Home to Harlem, Claude McKay
1929: The Sound and the Fury, William Faulkner (not yet available from TRS)

ASSIGNMENTS
Reading: We will typically read one book each week. We will read them in chronological order.  
Additionally, each member of the class will read one novel or short story collection not on the syllabus.

Writing: A two-page typed response to the reading is due each week. You will also turn in an  
annotated bibliography relating to one of the works on the syllabus. (You will not have to turn in a  
response to the book that week.) A critical essay on a topic of your devising will be due late in the  
semester. There will also be a final exam.

Presenting: You will present copies of your annotated bibliography to the class on the night that  
we read the work in question and briefly talk us through it. Some time after mid-term, you will also  
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 from the book, and any other relevant material.  
You will also be asked to make a brief presentation on the results of the research you did for your paper.  
*If you get a copy of your handouts to me by noon of the day of any of your presentations, I will be  
responsible for having enough 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”).

GRADES
40% Responses (20% at mid-term + 20% at end of term)  
10% Participation, including attendance + presentations  
10% Annotated Bibliography  
25% Paper  
15% Final Exam

Grades are not curved: 91%+ = A; 81-90% = B; 71-80% = C; 61-70% = D; -60% = F.