Course Description

While Hemingway and Fitzgerald were flirting with the expatriate avant-garde in Europe, Hurston and Faulkner were performing anthropological field-work in the local cultures of the American South. This course will address the tremendous diversity of concerns and styles of four writers who marked America's coming-of-age as a literary nation with their multifarious experiments in representing the regional and the global, the racial and the cosmopolitan, the macho and the feminist, the decadent and the impoverished.

Requirements

You can take this class for 3 or 5 units. You will be placed in sections as soon as possible. Attendance is mandatory for all students, in lecture and section. Lecture attendance will be noted by your section leaders.

If you're taking the class for 5 units, you will write two papers, a 5-6 page (1500-1800 word) paper at midterm, and a final, longer paper of 8-10 pages (2400-3000 words). If you're taking the class for 3 units, you will write one, final paper of around 8 pages (approx. 2400 words). The papers should be delivered to your section leader, the first paper (for 5 units) by 5pm on Fri. Feb. 24, the second paper (for both 3 and 5 units) by 5pm on Thursday March 23. Prompts will be available approximately two weeks before papers are due. These questions will encourage close analysis of our texts. There is no end-quarter examination.

Books

We will be using the following books, which are available at the Stanford Bookstore: F. Scott Fitzgerald, Babylon Revisited and Other Stories (Scribner/Simon & Schuster) and The Great Gatsby (Scribner/Simon & Schuster); Ernest Hemingway, The Short Stories (Scribner/Simon and Schuster) and The Sun Also Rises (Scribner/Simon & Schuster); William Faulkner, As I lay Dying (Vintage) and Absalom, Absalom! (Vintage); Zora Neale Hurston, The Complete Stories (HarperCollins) and Their Eyes Were Watching God (HarperCollins).

Week 1: Introduction

Mon. 1/9 The Syllabus/Introduction
Wed. 1/11 The Culture of the 1920s
Fri. 1/13 F. Scott Fitzgerald, “The Ice Palace” (in Babylon Revisited)

Week 2: Fitzgerald

Mon. 1/16 MLK Day: No lecture
Wed. 1/18 “May Day” (in Babylon Revisited)
Fri. 1/20 “The Diamond as Big as the Ritz” (in Babylon Revisited)

Week 3: Fitzgerald

Mon. 1/23 Fitzgerald, “Absolution” (in Babylon Revisited)
Wed. 1/25 The Great Gatsby: Chapters 1-3
Fri. 1/27  *The Great Gatsby*: Chapters 4-6

**Week 4: Fitzgerald to Hemingway**

Mon. 1/30  *The Great Gatsby*: The rest of the book
Fri. 2/3  *In Our Time* (the stories from “On the Quai at Smyrna” through “L’Envoi,” including all the mini-chapters: *The Short Stories* pp.87-233)

**Week 5: Hemingway**

Wed. 2/8  *The Sun Also Rises*: Chapters I-VII
Fri. 2/10  *The Sun Also Rises*: Chapters VIII-XV

**Week 6: Hemingway to Faulkner**

Mon. 2/13  *The Sun Also Rises*: The rest of the book
Wed. 2/15  The Culture of the 1930s
Fri. 2/17  Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying*: Read to p.176

**Week 7: Faulkner**

Mon. 2/20  *Presidents Day: No Lecture*
Wed. 2/22  *As I Lay Dying*: Finish the book. *** Begin reading *Absalom, Absalom!* ***
Fri. 2/24  *TBD*

**Week 8: Faulkner**

Mon. 2/27  *Absalom, Absalom!*: Chapters 1-3
Wed. 3/1  *Absalom, Absalom!*: Chapters 4-6
Fri. 3/3  *Absalom, Absalom!*: Chapters 7-9

**Week 9: Hurston**

Mon. 3/6  “Drenched in Light” (all stories are in *The Complete Stories*)
Wed. 3/8  “Spunk,” “Sweat,” “The Gilded Six-Bits”
Fri. 3/10  “Muttsy,” “Story in Harlem Slang,” “Black Death,” “Mother Catherine”

**Week 10: Hurston**

Mon. 3/13  As preparation for reading Hurston’s novel, read “The Eatonville Anthology” (pp.59-72 in *The Complete Stories*). Begin reading *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
Wed. 3/15  Read “High John De Conquer” (pp.139-48 in *The Complete Stories*), then focus on the first 8 chapters of *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
Fri. 3/17  Finish *Their Eyes Were Watching God*; course conclusions.