



Faulkner & Hurston, Hemingway & Fitzgerald

1st Trimester English Senior Elective, Mr. Grunner

Two children of South, and two of the Middle West. Two authors roughing it out at home and two mingling with the expatriate avant-garde in Paris. All in all, two unlikely pairs of writers, all setting their sights on our nation from within and without and, in turn, marking America's coming-of-age as a literary nation. Our course will take up the short fiction of William Faulkner, Zora Neale Hurston, Ernest Hemingway and F. Scott Fitzgerald, four twentieth century giants with a diversity of concerns and styles. Special attention will be paid to their multifaceted and nuanced experiments with and investigations of questions concerning race, class and gender in America.

Number of Class Sessions:

In a five-day week (or one cycle A-E), our class meets three times. Each meeting is 40 minutes long. Given your Christian Service commitments, should a class fall on the morning of a Tuesday, that meeting will be canceled.

Methodology:

Mini-Lectures, class discussions, student presentations.

Course Expectations:

HOMEWORK:

This primarily means reading. Students are expected to read well for this course, which means: (1) that you have read *every last word* of the assigned reading and (2) that you have carefully and thoughtfully annotated the text. Having read well, it is also expected that you will come in ready to participate. Because this is a discussion-orientated course (instead of a boring, lecture-orientated course), things work a whole lot better if you enter class with helpful and insightful questions, interesting and thoughtful comments, and serious objections and criticisms.

QUIZZES AND IN-CLASS RESPONSES:

Expect unannounced reading quizzes about once a cycle. I'm not a "gotcha!" kind of teacher. Do the work as outlined above and you'll be fine. Occasionally, we will have in-class writing assessments of 1-2 handwritten pages each. These in-class responses, meant to assess a deeper knowledge of the reading, *will be* announced.

ESSAYS:

There will be two short writing assignments and two longer writing assignments. You will find full descriptions of these assignments in the final section of this syllabus. The due dates for all four assignments are listed on the Reading Schedule.

Grading Policies:

Your trimester grades will be calculated based on the following breakdown:

Quizzes and In-class responses (10%)
Class Participation (30%)
Major Writing Assignments (60%)

Teacher Availability:

Though I have a formal "office hour" on Mondays from 3:00-4:00, I am frequently available most days before, during, and after school.

Reading Schedule

11 September: First class business!

Faulkner & Hurston

13 September “Sweat,” “How It Feels To Be Colored Me” (ZNH)

14 September “The Gilded Six Bits” (ZNH)

18 September “Story in Harlem Slang” (ZNH)

20 September “Drenched in Light” (ZNH)

21 September “A Rose for Emily” (WF)

***Reflection Paper #1 Due**

26 September “That Evening Sun” (WF)

28 September “Race at Morning” (WF)

3 October “Beyond” (WF)

5 October “Barn Burning” (WF)

6 October “Barn Burning” (WF)

12 October “The Bear” (WF)

16 October “The Bear” (WF)

Hemingway and Fitzgerald

17 October “Up in Michigan” (EH)

***Critical Essay #1 Due**

19 October “The Butterfly and the Tank,” “In Another Country” (EH)

25 October “A Clean Well Lighted Place.” “Hills Like White Elephants” (EH)

27 October “The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber” (EH)

1 November “Absolution” (FSF)
***Reflection Paper #2 Due**

3 November “The Sensible Thing” (FSF)

8 November “The Swimmers” (FSF)

13 November “One Trip Abroad” (FSF)

15 November “The Hotel Child” (FSF)

16 November “Ice Palace” (FSF)

20 November “A New Leaf” (FSF)
***Critical Essay #2 Due**

Writing Assignments

Reflection Papers

During the course of the trimester, you will compose two 2-3 pg. Reflection Papers, the first of which will be due on 21 September and the second of which will be due on 1 November. While they ought to pertain to the stories we will have read and discussed, the subject and form of these reflection papers is entirely up to you—treat them as an opportunity to think through some questions or issues a story raises, to muse on a particular theme, to interrogate a particular character and/or their worldview, to draw comparisons between stories, &c. These reflections may very well serve as a starting point or springboard for your longer essays.

Critical Essays

During the course of the trimester, you will compose two 5 pg. Critical Essays, the first of which will be due on 12 October and the second of which will be due on 20 November. These essays will develop and defend, by way of textual evidence and critical analysis, a thesis of your choosing. That is to say, the subject of these essays is entirely up to you! Your essays may treat a single text or two texts (from either the same or different authors). I would suggest that you run your topics by me before you begin crafting and drafting your essays. You’re Seniors now and so I would like you to try and move beyond the sometimes stifling 5-paragraph Essay format which you have by now mastered—let the form of your paper grow and change and, most importantly, conform to better allow your ideas to speak.