

English 3353: Modern American Fiction (1900-1940)
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Course Description

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.

This is an advanced English course that satisfies three hours of credit in the English major and minor. Students enrolling in this course must have completed the university Core Communication requirement. Competency in written English and composition at the advanced level is expected in **all** written performance. Completion of ENGL 3301 is recommended.

NOTE: ENGL 3353 **does not** satisfy the university Core requirement satisfied by ENGL 3350 and 3351.

Learning Outcomes

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..
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.

Texts

Crane, *Maggie*
Cather, *A Lost Lady*
Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*
Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises*
Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*