

English 491 – Directed Study
“American Expatriate Modernity”
Spring 2008

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In this Directed Study, you will engage with the phenomenon of expatriation to Europe by American writers, primarily during the 1920s. You will consider several elemental questions to this topic of study: What is the impetus for expatriation? What do we mean by “expatriate modernity”? What social and political factors “drove” American writers abroad? What features of “modernity” are salient in the texts considered in this course? Finally, what *is* “American expatriate modernity”? Through a series of response papers and scholarly research papers, you will offer answers to and insights into these central considerations.

Your papers will be evaluated on the basis of their scholarly rigor. Primarily, I will scrutinize your “close readings” of the texts you consider. Secondly, I will examine the ways in which you use scholarly research articles and books *to supplement your own* readings of these texts. Each of the two “scholarly research papers” in the course must demonstrate your thorough understanding of plot, of course, but beyond this, of *context*. These texts do not exist in a historical vacuum. I will ask you to do comparative work in your final essay of the term, an essay which will need to demonstrate your ability to “work between texts” and present solid arguments regarding the ways in which the texts you have chosen serve as exemplary instances of “American expatriate modernity.”

You will also write five short response papers. The two- to three-page papers do not need to include any research. The purpose of these papers is to provide you with a forum for your own examination of selected texts. You can respond to plot, to author, or to the particular exigency that spurred the text.

I look forward to working with you, reading with you, and discussing these authors and their works with you this semester!

Point Distribution

Response papers (5):	100
Essay one:	100
Essay two:	250
Meetings (preparedness):	50

TOTAL 500

A standard grading scale for grades A through F applies.

Course calendar:

Week one:

Wednesday, January 23 Initial meeting

Week two:

Wednesday, January 30 Syllabus planning meeting

<u>Week three:</u> Wednesday, February 6	No meeting
<u>Week four:</u> Wednesday, February 13	RESPONSE ONE DUE Discuss James, <u>The Portrait of a Lady</u> and article "Muckrakers and Early Moderns," by Ruland and Bradbury
<u>Week five:</u> Wednesday, February 20	RESPONSE TWO DUE Selected poems by Langston Hughes and Countee Cullen and chapter "W. E. B. DuBois and WWI" from Michel Fabre's book <u>From Harlem to Paris</u>
<u>Week six:</u> Wednesday, February 27	No meeting
<u>Week seven:</u> Wednesday, March 5	RESPONSE THREE DUE Discuss Gertrude Stein, <u>Three Lives</u> Assign Essay One
<u>Week eight:</u> Wednesday, March 12	NO CLASSES – SPRING BREAK
<u>Week nine:</u> Wednesday, March 19	ESSAY ONE DUE. No meeting.
<u>Week ten:</u> Wednesday, March 26	RESPONSE FOUR DUE Djuna Barnes, short story "Smoke" plus one other story from <u>Smoke and Other Stories</u>
<u>Week eleven:</u> Wednesday, April 2	Selected poems by H. D. and Ezra Pound Assign Essay Two
<u>Week twelve:</u> Wednesday, April 9	Hemingway, <u>The Sun Also Rises</u>
<u>Week thirteen:</u> Wednesday, April 16	Meet to discuss essay progress and questions
<u>Week fourteen:</u> Wednesday, April 23	ESSAY TWO DUE. No meeting.
<u>Week fifteen:</u> Wednesday, April 30	RESPONSE FIVE DUE Fitzgerald, "Winter Dreams" plus one other story from <u>The Short Stories Of F. Scott Fitzgerald</u>
<u>Week sixteen:</u> Wednesday, May 9	Course evaluation. Return Essay Two.