SYLLABUS

Course title and number        ENGL 396
Term (e.g., Fall 200X)         Spring 2019
Meeting times and location    TBD

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Name                      Dr. Gabriel Scala
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Office hours           MWF 11:30-2:30
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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PREREQUISITES

ENGL 396, Studies in American Literature (Publishing the Lost Generation): Gertrude Stein famously said of American expatriates writing in Paris from the end of World War I to the Great Depression, “You are all a lost generation;” yet the canonical works of inter-war American literature produced in Paris is some of the most celebrated. In this course, we will look specifically at American expatriate publishers who ran the small presses that published the works of the so-called Lost Generation as well as representative selections of the fiction and poetry they published. We will begin with a discussion of Modernism and little magazines, especially In Transition magazine, and move into a closer look at three small press publishers: Contact Editions, Black Sun Press and Three Mountains Press. During our time in Paris, we will also look closely at the life and work of Sylvia Beach, founder of Shakespeare and Company, and will explore the evolution of American expatriate publishing in Paris. As we become familiar with the tradition of Modernism, we will explore the impact of American expatriate publishers on America’s position within that tradition.

LEARNING OUTCOMES OR COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the semester, students will be able to identify and explain the tenants of American Literary Modernism and critically analyze the relationship between the major expatriate small press publishers working in Paris, the authors they published, and the impact of those publications on America’s position within the Modernist movement. Finally, through study and travel abroad, students will also explore the cultural influence of 1920s Paris on both writers and publishers and will evaluate the enduring impact of the Lost Generation writers and publishers on modern day Paris.

PARIS TRIP

The Spring Break visit to Paris will allow us to visit historically significant sites relevant to the Lost Generation publishers and writers as well as explore the enduring influence of 1920s expatriate publishing in Paris to include the still-operating Shakespeare and Company Bookseller as well as contemporary manifestations of American expatriate small press publishing and little magazines.
REQUIRED & RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:

Required:
- William Faulkner, Sanctuary, Black Sun Press, 1932.

Recommended:

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES PROVIDED:


COURSE REQUIREMENTS

2-page Critical Responses – 20%
3-4-page Reflective Essay – 20%
10-12-page Final Essay – 30%
Final Exam – 30%
COURSE CALENDAR

WEEK 1: Introduction to American Literary Modernism

WEEK 2: Publishing the Lost Generation: little magazines and small presses
*Transatlantic Avant-Gardes: Little Magazines and Localist Modernism* by E.B. White

WEEK 3: *In Transition* Magazine
*In Transition: a Paris anthology*, edited by Noel Riley Fitch

WEEK 4: Harry and Caresse Crosby & Black Sun Press
*The Cramoisy Queen: A Life of Caresse Crosby*, by Linda Hamalian
“The Couple Who Made the Twenties Roar,” by Peter Lyle

WEEK 5: Black Sun Press, cont.
2-pg. critical response due

WEEK 6: Black Sun Press, cont.
2-pg. critical response due

WEEK 7: Sylvia Beach and Shakespeare & Company
*Sylvia Beach and the Lost Generation: A History of Literary Paris in the Twenties and Thirties*, by Noel Riley Fitch

WEEK 8: America’s Enduring Influence
“Expat Literary Publishing in Paris Today” by Ethan Gilsdorf
“‘Transition’ and ‘Merlin’: Two Generations of American Little Magazines in Paris” by Craig Monk
“Shakespeare on the Left Bank” by Seymour I. Toll

WEEK 9 – Spring Break in Paris
2-3 pg. reflection on the endurance of American literary culture as witnessed in Paris

WEEK 10: Robert McAlmon & Contact Editions
*Adrift Among Geniuses: Robert McAlmon, Writer and Publisher of the Twenties* by S.J. Smoller

WEEK 11: Contact Editions, cont.
2-pg. critical response due

WEEK 12: Contact Editions, cont.
2-pg. critical response due

WEEK 13: William Augustus Bird & Three Mountains Press
“Continental Conjecture: Ephemera, Imitation and America’s (late) Modernist Canons in the Three Mountains Press and Robert McAlmon’s Contact Editions” by E.B. White
“Full Contact: Robert McAlmon, Gertrude Stein, and Modernist Book Making” by M. Epp
2-pg. critical response due
WEEK 14: Three Mountains Press, cont.
2-pg. critical response due

WEEK 15: Class Wrap Up
Final paper due