

SYLLABUS

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

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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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:

- E.B. White, (2013). *Transatlantic Avant-Gardes: Little Magazines and Localist Modernism*, Edinburgh UP.
- Smoller, S.J. (1975). *Adrift Among Geniuses: Robert McAlmon, Writer and Publisher of the Twenties*. University Park, PA: The Pennsylvania State University Press.
- Noel Riley Fitch, *Sylvia Beach and the Lost Generation: A History of Literary Paris in the Twenties and Thirties*, W.W. Norton & Co., 1985.
- Linda Hamalian, *The Cramoisy Queen: A Life of Caresse Crosby*, Southern Illinois UP, 2009.
- H.D. (Hilda Doolittle). *Palimpsest*. Contact Editions, 1922.
- Gertrude Stein, *The Making of Americans*, Contact Editions, 1926.
- William Carlos Williams, *The Great American Novel*, Three Mountains Press, 1923.
- Ezra Pound, *Indiscretions*, Three Mountains Press, 1923.
- Hart Crane, *The Bridge, A Poem*, Black Sun Press, 1930.
- William Faulkner, *Sanctuary*, Black Sun Press, 1932.

Recommended:

- Arlen J. Hansen, *Expatriate Paris: A Cultural and Literary Guide to Paris of the 1920s*, Arcade Publishing, 2012.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES PROVIDED:

- White, Eric B. "Continental Conjecture: Ephemera, Imitation and America's (late) Modernist Canons in the Three Mountains Press and Robert McAlmon's Contact Editions." *European Journal of American Culture*, Jan. 1, 2013, pp. 285-306.
- Epp, M. (2005). "Full Contact: Robert McAlmon, Gertrude Stein, and Modernist Book Making." *Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America*, 99:2, pp. 265-93.
- Noel Riley Fitch (1990). *In Transition: a Paris anthology*, Anchor Books, Doubleday. https://monoskop.org/images/2/2d/In_Transition_A_Paris_Anthology.pdf
- Dewey, J. (1920). "Americanism and Localism." *The Dial*, 68:6, pp. 684-88.
- Peter Lyle, "The Couple Who Made the Twenties Roar," *Sunday Telegraph (UK)*, London, England, June 4, 2009, p. 022 10pp, Database: NewsBank.
- Ethan Gilsdorf, "Expatriate Literary Publishing in Paris Today." *Publishing Research Quarterly*, June 2003, 19:2, pp. 60-64.
- Craig Monk, "'Transition' and 'Merlin': Two Generations of American Little Magazines in Paris." *Journal of Modern Literature*, 20:2 (Winter 1996), pp. 215-221.
- Seymour I. Toll, "Shakespeare on the Left Bank." *Sewanee Review*, 120:4, Fall, 2012, pp. 558-569.

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.

Hart Crane, *The Bridge, A Poem*, Black Sun Press, 1930.

2-pg. critical response due

WEEK 6: Black Sun Press, cont.

William Faulkner, *Sanctuary*, Black Sun Press, 1932.

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

"Expatriate 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.

H.D. (Hilda Doolittle). *Palimpsest*. Contact Editions, 1922.

2-pg. critical response due

WEEK 12: Contact Editions, cont.

Gertrude Stein, *The Making of Americans*, Contact Editions, 1926.

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

Ezra Pound, *Indiscretions*, Three Mountains Press, 1923.

2-pg. critical response due

WEEK 14: Three Mountains Press, cont.

William Carlos Williams, *The Great American Novel*, Three Mountains Press, 1923.

2-pg. critical response due

WEEK 15: Class Wrap Up

Final paper due