

Fall/Winter 2017-2018

AP/EN 4352 3.0M (W)

F. Scott Fitzgerald

Course Director:

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Delivery Format:

Seminar

Time:

Wednesdays 2:30-5:30pm

Description:

F. Scott Fitzgerald is one of those fortunate authors whose works are taken seriously enough by scholars as to appear on college and university courses but whose novels and short stories (several of which have been made into movies) also enjoy mass-market appeal because of his themes and the accessibility of his famously lyrical prose. Ambition, failing marriages, the “problem of evil,” free will vs. determinism, the “sins of the parents,” “emotional bankruptcy,” the inevitability of loss, ideas and ideals of masculinity, the “self-made man” and the quest for self-determination, the American Dream (the “rags-to-riches” ideal), Old Wealth and New Wealth, conspicuous consumption, the reversal of fortune, the effects of class and money on morality, alcoholism during the era of Prohibition, the changed social and moral values of 1920s America after World War I, the dangers of dissolution and the struggle to maintain self-discipline, the figure of the “flapper” as an embodiment of the “New Woman,” romantic idealism (the extent to which a young man will go to acquire his “golden girl”): these are some of Fitzgerald’s major themes and motifs.

In this course we read a small selection of Fitzgerald’s 178 short stories, in many of which he developed themes that he would explore more fully in his novels. Scholars write, for instance, of the *Tender is the Night* cluster and of the *Gatsby* cluster (the “American Dream” tales) that anticipate or look back upon that masterpiece. They categorize his stories into major groups: fantasy, flapper, adolescence, retrospective, medical-profession, courtship, marriage, expatriation, Hollywood. He also wrote short story sequences revolving around the fictitious town of Tarleton, Georgia; major characters also link stories: Basil Duke Lee, Josephine Perry, Pat Hobby. As well, we

examine two or three of his four novels: *This Side of Paradise*, *The Beautiful and Damned*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Tender is the Night*. We shall explore intertextual links between the novels and tales—recurring thematic concerns of an author who thought of himself, like Nick Carraway in *The Great Gatsby*, as a moralist.

Category:

C

Area:

2

Period:

3

Historical Requirement:

N/A

Requirements:

participation 1 : 7%

participation 2 : 8%

exam: 40%

essay: 30%

close-reading assignment: 10%

JSTOR research assignment: 5%

Reading List:

Brucoli, Matthew J., ed. *The Short Stories of F. Scott Fitzgerald*. (Scribner)

Which two or three novels are read can change from year to year:

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *This Side of Paradise*. (Scribner)

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby*. (Scribner)

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *Tender is the Night*. (Scribner)

Zimmerman, Brett. *F. Scott Fitzgerald*. (course kit)

Open To:

Yr 4 Honours