

# The Gun and the Iceberg

## Ernest Hemingway's Literary and Cultural Heritage

**Lecturer:** Univ.-Prof. Dr. Stefan L. Brandt

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**Room and Time:** SR 34 D2 · Wed 14:30-16:00

**First session:** March 14, 2014

**Course number:** SE 512.252

**Description:** During his lifetime, Ernest Hemingway was associated with both an exaggerated masculinity and an affinity to violence – an impression fostered by the writer himself in numerous self-depictions as a fearless hunter and war hero. Despite these obvious markers of tough-guy masculinity and audacity in times of war, ambivalence kept floating above the Hemingway persona. These signifiers pointed to his self-declared ›grace under pressure‹, but also to the suppressed sides of his personality (gender ambiguity, doubts regarding his strength of mind, detestation of speech).

**Methods:** This is an interactive course. Participation in group discussions as well as contributions to the discussion forum on the Moodle course site will be part of the final grade. Each meeting will be held by 'experts' who organize the session by means of questions, games, illustrations, video clips, and group work.

**Aims:** This seminar will examine the many-faceted and sometimes contradictory designs of Hemingway's writings, focusing on a wide range of novels, short stories, non-fictional writing, and war reports.

**Assessment:** Regular **attendance**; active in-class **participation**; presentation as part of an **expert session** with 3-page handout and 3 online questions; at least **9 entries in the discussion forum**; **research proposal** of 2 and **final paper** of 10-12 pages.

**Grading:** 1/3 – Attendance, participation, and discussion entries; 1/3 – expert session; 1/3 – research proposal and final paper. Please note that you need a "4" ("Genügend") in each category in order to pass the course.

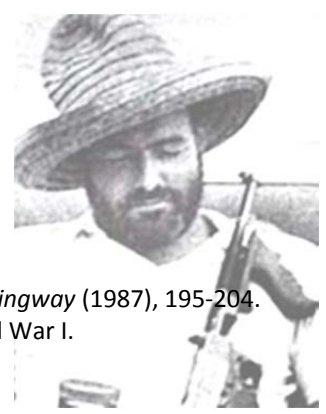
**Materials:** A **course reader** containing all mandatory texts is available at our office (Attemsgasse 25, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, opening hours Mon-Fri 9-12). All texts (plus a number of additional texts) are also available on the Moodle course site.

**Uploads:** All experts will make their three online questions available 9 days *before* the session. PowerPoint presentations and handouts must be made available within 1 week *after* the session. Please send all documents to our student assistant Nora Wenzl at [nora.wenzl@edu.uni-graz.at](mailto:nora.wenzl@edu.uni-graz.at).

### Syllabus

- March 14**      **Introduction – Men, Guns, and Icebergs**  
Basic text (strongly recommended):  
Linda W. Wagner, "Introduction" to *Ernest Hemingway: Six Decades of Criticism* (1987), 1-7.
- March 21**      **The Nick Adams Stories - Tales of Blood and Initiation**  
Main texts (required):  
"Indian Camp" (1925).  
Additional text (for experts):  
Earl Rovit, "The Code: A Revaluation" (1963), 107-127.  
Keywords: Birth, Childhood, Initiation, Native Americans, ›Nick Adams‹, Pain, Wilderness.
- April 4**      **The Code Hero – Violence, Language, and 'Grace under Pressure'**  
Main text (required):  
"The Battler" (1925) & "The Killers" (1927).  
Additional texts (for experts):  
Mordecai Marcus, "What Is an Initiation Story?" (1960), 221-228.  
J.W. Stuckey, "'The Killers' as Experience" (1975), 128-135.  
Keywords: Boxing, Death, Evil, Initiation Story, Rational vs. Irrational, Violence.
- April 4**      **The Lost Generation – Trauma and Flight**  
Main text (required):  
Excerpts from *The Sun Also Rises* (1926).  
Additional text (for experts):  
James Hinkle, "What's Funny in *The Sun Also Rises*" from *Ernest Hemingway* (1987), 77-92.  
Keywords: Diaspora, Expatriates, Lost Generation, Paris, Roaring Twenties, War Wounds.





- April 11**      **Romances of the War – Trauma, Loss, and World War I**  
Main text (required):  
Selected chapters from *A Farewell to Arms* (1929).  
Additional text (for experts):  
Robert A. Martin, "Hemingway and the Ambulance Driver," from *Ernest Hemingway* (1987), 195-204.  
Keywords: Austria, Editing History, Italy, Romance, Switzerland, Trauma, World War I.
- May 9**      **Machismo and Bullfighting**  
Main texts (required):  
Selected passages from *Death in the Afternoon* (1932).  
Additional text (for experts):  
Ernest Hemingway, "The Capital of the World" (aka "The Horns of the Bull") (1936)  
Keywords: *Afición*, Bullfighting, Courage, Death, Fear, Masculinity, Non-Fiction, Pamplona.
- May 16**      **The Quarrel of the Sexes**  
Main text (required):  
"Cat in the Rain" (1925) & "Hills like White Elephants" (1927).  
Additional texts (for experts):  
Seymour Chatman, "'Soft Filters': Some Sunshine on 'Cat in the Rain'" (2001), 217-222.  
Peter Messent, "Gender Role and Sexuality", from *Ernest Hemingway* (1992), 83-123.  
Keywords: Abortion, Dignity, Gender, Male-Female Relationships, Symmetry.
- May 23**      **Death and the Crisis of Masculinity**  
Main text (required):  
"The Short, Happy Life of Francis Macomber" (1936).  
Additional text (for experts):  
Bernard Oldsey, "Hemingway's Beginnings and Endings", from *Ernest Hemingway* (1987), 113-138.  
Keywords: Cowardice, ›Henpecked Husband‹, Heroism, Lion, Marriage, Murder, Tutorship.
- June 6**      **Images of Africa – Adventure, Solitude, Reminiscing + Extra-Screening (to be announced)**  
Main texts (required):  
"The Snows of Kilimanjaro" (1936) and film by Henry King (1952).  
Additional text (for experts):  
Excerpts from Ernest Hemingway's *Green Hills of Africa* (1935).  
Keywords: Big Game Hunting, Death, Film Adaptation, Hyena Symbol, Safari, Writing.
- June 13**      **Fighting against Fascism - The Spanish Civil War and World War II**  
Main text (required):  
Excerpts from *For Whom the Bell Tolls* (1940), "Guerilla Warfare" and "El Sordo's Last Stand".  
Additional text (for experts):  
Excerpts from *Across the River and into the Trees* (1950) ("The Taking of Paris" and "The Dead").  
Keywords: Brutality of War, Cowardice, Dream Girl, Fascism, Guerilla Troops, Heroism.
- June 20**      **The Silent Years – Cuba, Age, and Pride + Extra-Screening (to be announced)**  
Main text (required):  
*The Old Man and the Sea* (1952) and film version by John Sturges (1958).  
Additional text (for experts):  
Linda W. Wagner, "The Poem of Santiago and Manolin", from *Ernest Hemingway* (1987), 275-287.  
Keywords: Age, Christ, Defeat, Fishing, *Moby-Dick*, Religion, Struggle, Symbolism.
- June 27**      **Looking Back to the Roaring Twenties – Paris and the Avant-Garde**  
Main text (required):  
*A Moveable Feast* (publ. posthumously 1964).  
Additional text (for experts):  
Gerry Brenner, "Are We Going to Hemingway's Feast?", from *Ernest Hemingway* (1987), 297-305.  
Keywords: Editing History, Expatriates, ›Hadley H.‹, Memoir, Modernism, Paris, ›Gertrude Stein‹.
- July 4**      **A New Look on Hemingway - Troubled Sexuality, Troubled Identity**  
Main text (required):  
Excerpts from *The Garden of Eden* (publ. posthumously 1986).  
Additional text (for experts):  
E.L. Doctorow, "Braver than We Thought", from *Ernest Hemingway* (1987), 325-331.  
Mark Spilka, from *Hemingway's Struggle with Androgyny* (1990), 1-13.  
Keywords: Androgyny, Bisexuality, Male-Female Relationships, Reversal of Gender Roles.

– Deadline for the final paper –

