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, 2nd 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.

Syllabus

March 14 Introduction – Men, Guns, and Icebergs
Basic text (strongly recommended):

March 21 The Nick Adams Stories - Tales of Blood and Initiation
Main texts (required):
"Indian Camp" (1925).
Additional text (for experts):
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):
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):
Keywords: Diaspora, Expatriates, Lost Generation, Paris, Roaring Twenties, War Wounds.
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Text</th>
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<td>April 11</td>
<td>Romances of the War – Trauma, Loss, and World War I</td>
<td>Main text (required): Selected chapters from <em>A Farewell to Arms</em> (1929). Additional text (for experts): Robert A. Martin, “Hemingway and the Ambulance Driver,” from <em>Ernest Hemingway</em> (1987), 195-204. Keywords: Austria, Editing History, Italy, Romance, Switzerland, Trauma, World War I.</td>
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<td>June 6</td>
<td>Images of Africa – Adventure, Solitude, Reminiscing + Extra-Screening (to be announced)</td>
<td>Main texts (required): “The Snows of Kilimanjaro” (1936) and film by Henry King (1952). Additional text (for experts): Excerpts from Hemingway’s <em>Green Hills of Africa</em> (1935). Keywords: Big Game Hunting, Death, Film Adaptation, Hyena Symbol, Safari, Writing.</td>
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<td>June 13</td>
<td>Fighting against Fascism - The Spanish Civil War and World War II</td>
<td>Main text (required): Excerpts from <em>For Whom the Bell Tolls</em> (1940), “Guerilla Warfare” and “El Sordo’s Last Stand”. Additional text (for experts): Excerpts from <em>Across the River and into the Trees</em> (1950) (“The Taking of Paris” and “The Dead”). Keywords: Brutality of War, Cowardice, Dream Girl, Fascism, Guerilla Troops, Heroism.</td>
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— Deadline for the final paper —