

Brescia University College

English 4640G

Tuesdays 8:30-11:20

Room 302A

The Fiction of F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald

Brian Diemert

Tuesday 8:30-11:30 rm. 302A

Long seen as the embodiment of the ethos of the American 1920s, Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald shaped their place in American literary history through a relentless process of self-historicising and self-mythologizing. In this seminar, we will examine in some detail the fiction of the two writers and explore the implications and consequences of their myth of themselves for their fiction. Part of this exploration will necessarily involve excursions into the realms of literary history and literary biography as well as the literary marketplace of America between the wars. Some attention will also be given to the creative dynamic that existed between the two writers, particularly as it is expressed in the circumstances surrounding the publications of *Tender is the Night* and *Save Me the Waltz*.

Texts:

F. Scott Fitzgerald, *This Side of Paradise*

The Beautiful and the Damned

The Great Gatsby

Tender is the Night

The Last Tycoon

"The Crack Up" and other Essays (ed. E. Wilson)

The Stories of F. Scott Fitzgerald (ed. M. Cowley)

Assignments:

--a major presentation (including a self-assessment) (35%)

--a major term essay due in the last class (35%)

--four short (no more than 500 words), reflective commentaries (some of which will be the basis of class discussion). (20% in total)

--participation (10%)

Expectations, Assignments, and Objectives:

Because this is a seminar course, our first obligation is to each other; consequently, regular attendance, participation, and preparation are important for us to have a successful class. I am sure you've all experienced the horrifyingly sinking feeling that results from asking questions during a presentation (and, perhaps, you'd planned for a discussion!) only to meet with stony silence (I know I have!). Not a pleasant feeling, is it? So, to help us along, 10% of the course mark will be allocated to participation and attendance.

Of course, because this is a seminar course, you will have to perform. The presentation will be on a topic or text(s) selected by you and held on the scheduled date. You are responsible for fifty minutes to an hour of class time. You are free to do what you want with the time so long as you deal with the topic or text and the academic nature of the course. Please refrain from presenting a wikipedia-like entry and assume your audience has knowledge of the text, so no plot summary, character description, etc. Otherwise, you can talk, read, ask questions, lead discussion, use electronic resources, puppets or partners, etc. After the presentation, you should submit a brief outline of your main points (no more than a page) and your bibliography. You will also submit, after some time for reflection (say a day or two) a self-assessment of your presentation. The seminar is a heap of work and, consequently worth 35% of your grade. Another 35% of your grade will be awarded for your final essay. This paper will be a

substantial piece of work of between 16 and 20 pages on a topic of your choosing (I will provide suggestions). You can make passing use of the material you did your presentation on, but it cannot be a main part of the essay. On the other hand, any framing, criticism, or theory you may have used in your presentation can be used in your essay. The essay is due by the end of the last class in April. It goes without saying that clear and grammatically correct composition is expected by you and me. Improvement in this area is never ending. There will be shorter assignments required as well but the nature of these pieces depends on the size of the class.

By the end of the term, successful students will have written clearly argued and grammatically correct essays that probe aspects of the Fitzgeralds' work. Students will become familiar with the historical context of the early twentieth century and understand the dynamics of literary exchange. They will see how events and autobiographical elements are manipulated in fiction. Students will hone their presentation skills, improve oral expression, and develop their critical thinking through class work and written assignments.

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded under the Medical Documentation heading of the following website: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> . If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician/nurse practitioner, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation. All documentation is to be submitted to an Academic Advisor.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full statement of University policy regarding extensions of deadlines or makeup exams can be found at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2015/pg117.html>

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, www.registrar.uwo.ca, for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar.

6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

7. SUPPORT SERVICES

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> . The Western Registrar's website is at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.html> . The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/> . Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocum/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.