

America's Own: Ernest Hemingway
Liaocheng University
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Course Description: This course is an introduction to twentieth-century American culture through the author Ernest Hemingway. We will examine the early influences of Hemingway from his childhood in northern Michigan and Illinois through his adulthood. This includes an analysis of his earliest writing as a journalist and developing into a short story and novel writer. In addition to analyzing his writing, we will uncover educational and cultural influences as a young boy in the midwest. In particular, we will discover some of the books that he read in his secondary education. We will also explore many of the letters he wrote to his family, friends, and publishers. Each of the stories we read will develop inquiry to future writers and develop our understanding of human character development. There will also be a close reading exercise as we read a number of Hemingway's letters. Through oral and written responses students will develop a deeper understanding of Hemingway and American literary influences.

Course Objectives: Students will become familiar with Ernest Hemingway's writing style and contribution to American literary history. We will carefully analyze some of his most important writing. Students will explore Hemingway's writing and the relationship between the cultural and social dynamics of his time. Through writing assignments, students will specifically discover his unique and often simplistic diction and syntax. Finally, students will develop their ability to annotate, analyze, and assess specific figurative language including images, symbols, allusions, and passages and to then present interpretations as a group to the class.

Examination: We will have three (one hour) tests throughout the period. There will be two group presentations. Each of the tests will be based on a particular text we studied in class and will contain questions regarding the theme, characterization, plot, and rhetorical devices used. The presentations will be graded with a rubric based on the literature content, application of the rhetorical devices discussed in class, and communication skills. There will be weekly short writing assignments in response to a portion of the Hemingway text.

Group Presentations: Each group will be comprised of 3-4 students. Each person in the group will be expected to present information about their given topic. All topics will be related to one of the Hemingway short stories. Powerpoint or similar presentation software may be used for the presentation, however, use it as a support tool with minimal text. The group will be graded as a collaborative group.

Reading Assignments: Students are expected to read the entire assignment before attending class. Students should make annotations throughout the document including words or conceptions they are not familiar with or would like further inquiry as a note of interest. Students will learn how to develop their own literary criticism and contextualize the meaning of Hemingway's writing.

Expectations: Students are expected to arrive on time and attend each class. Cell phones and laptop computers are not allowed. Students should listen carefully during the class time, take notes, and be prepared to participate in class discussions as appropriate. Participation is a critical aspect of the class discussion and students are expected to demonstrate critical thinking and ideas based on the reading. Each student should provide a digital photo with their name in Chinese characters, the student's name in pinyin, the student's ID number, and any English name that the student uses.

Texts:

1. Short Stories: "A Way You'll Never Be," "Hills Like White Elephants," "A Clean Well Lighted Place," "In Another Country," and "Che Ti Dice La Patria."
2. Hemingway, Ernest. *A Farewell to Arms*, Scribner, 1995.
3. Baker, Carlos. *Hemingway: The Writer as Artist*. Fourth ed., Princeton UP, 1972.