Course Title: Great American Modernist Fiction  
Course Code: Lit 186W  
Instructor: Adena Spingarn

Course Summary:

*Please see course page for full description and additional details.*

Grade Options and Requirements:

- **No Grade Requested (NGR)**
  - This is the default option. No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.

- **Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)**
  - Recommended: Weekly or biweekly submission of a discussion question
  - Participation in at least 6 of 8 weekly written discussions and/or Zoom sessions
  - 2 guided literary analysis assignments (350-500 words max)

- **Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, No Pass)**
  - Recommended: Weekly or biweekly submission of a discussion question
  - Participation in at least 7 of 8 weekly written discussions and/or Zoom sessions (50%)
  - 2 guided literary analysis assignments (350-500 words max) (30%)
  - Expansion of one post or guided literary assignment into a 4-5 page essay, details TBA (20%)

*Please Note: If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose either the Letter Grade or Credit/No Credit option. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.*

Description of Assignments:

- **Discussion questions (recommended but not required)**
  - Each week or every other week, submit one well-thought-out question relevant to the week’s readings, along with a suggested citation from the text (including page number) that might help us answer it. These questions, which will help structure our weekly Zoom session, should be submitted each Wednesday by midnight PST.

- **Weekly posts in the discussion forums, 150-250 words max**
  - Each week, we will conduct a conversation about the week’s reading in a written format. Your posts should address the posted question or questions as
well as classmates who have already responded. The weekly discussion questions will ask you to interpret the text, to examine how its formal properties (e.g. narrative structure, diction syntax, characterization) create meaning. One useful way to think about literary interpretation is as a tool for expanding and enriching the meaning of a text that might seem confusing or simple at first glance. Your posts should be less concerned with identifying a “right answer” (there isn’t one!) than with advancing a strong argument. A strong argument in this context generally requires: 1) support from specific quotes from the text that back up your claims (without textual support, an argument weakens and simply becomes an opinion); 2) thoughtfully and respectfully considering and responding to the arguments of other students, so that as a class we produce nuanced and persuasive interpretations that we probably would not have developed alone; and 3) writing with concision and clarity, treating the forums as a conversation and not a series of monologues.

- Literary analysis assignments (3 total, 350-500 words each)
  - Instructions for each assignment will be available on Canvas.
- Expansion of one post or literary assignment into a 4-5 page essay, details TBA (for letter graded students only)

**Weekly Outline:**

**Week 1:** What is Modernism? / Narration  
Reading: F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby* - read through p. 80

**Week 2:** The American Dream  
Reading: F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby* - complete the novel

**Week 3:** The Iceberg Principle  
Reading: Ernest Hemingway, “Indian Camp,” “Big Two-Hearted River” (Part I & 2)

**Week 4:** Cosmopolitan Chaos  
Reading: Djuna Barnes, *Nightwood* - read through p. 77, including T. S. Eliot’s introduction

**Week 5:** Time and Civilization  
Reading: Djuna Barnes, *Nightwood* - complete the novel

**Week 6:** The Haunted South  
Reading: William Faulkner, “Barn Burning,” “A Rose for Emily,” “That Evening Sun”

**Week 7:** Subjectivity and Free Indirect Discourse  
Reading: Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* - read through p. 109

**Week 8:** Speaking  
Reading: Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* - complete the novel