

Christopher J. Armstrong

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Course Description

This course is devoted to the life and times of F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896-1940). Students in this class will explore the culture of the 1920s while reading Fitzgerald's classic novel *The Great Gatsby*, published in 1925.

Course Objectives

Course objectives include (1) an appreciation of Fitzgerald's artistic achievement in *The Great Gatsby*; (2) knowledge of American culture and society in the 1920s; (3) ability to read, analyze, discuss and write about fiction.

Teaching Methods

Lectures in English, weekly readings and journal writing and small-group discussion: There will be lectures each week, introducing cultural historical and biographical background. There will also be weekly class discussions of the reading, quizzes, short presentations, and lectures on the novel. In addition to a short essay on an aspect of the novel, students will form groups and create a short podcast on the culture of the 1920s in America, including such topics as music, fashion, race relations, and immigration, among others.

Evaluation

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| (1) Class notebook, participation, special projects | 50% |
| (2) Tests and quizzes | 20% |
| (3) A short analytical essay on a theme or aspect of the novel
or background to the novel (4-5 pages, typed and double-spaced) | 30% |

Materials

- (1) *The Great Gatsby*. Ed. Ruth Prigozy. Oxford, 2008. Copies of the text will be available for loan.
- (2) グレート・ギャツビー. 村上春樹 訳者 中央公論新社, 2006. (optional)
- (3) Handouts and readings for this course will be supplied by the teacher.
- (4) A notebook to use for class notes and journal writing.
- (5) Information will be posted on the course homepage <<http://www.chukyoiebei.org/uslh2/>> and on Twitter @USLitEibe
- (6) Reference books and articles in English and Japanese can be found in the Common Room.

Regulations

- (1) Regular class attendance is important. Do not miss more than 5 classes. If you have to miss class, please email me. All homework and handouts will be posted on the homepage.
- (2) Do your weekly writing at home and come to class ready to talk.

For International Exchange Students

This is both a skills- and a content-based class in which English-native speakers and non-natives can develop competence in academic writing in general and literary analysis in particular as well as knowledge in the subject area. International students may be asked to take leadership roles within groups. Sensitivity to Japanese communication style would be an asset in the class. Regulations concerning attendance, evaluation and completion of assignments are the same for all students.

Homework for Week 2:

- (1) Buy a notebook for this class.
- (2) Read chapter 1 of *The Great Gatsby*.
- (3) Write a paragraph in your notebook to answer to ONE of these questions:
 - (A) Discuss the character of Nick Carraway. What is his background? What kind of person is he? Give two or more examples from the chapter to support your view.
 - (B) Discuss Tom and Daisy. What kind of people are they? Give two or more examples from the chapter to describe each character. Describe their relationship.
- (4) Be ready to discuss characters and events in chapter 1. There will be a short reading test in class.