

**Fitzgerald/Hemingwy: Senior Seminar**  
**Final Paper: Guidelines for Final Paper**  
**Spring 2018**  
**Dr. Mangum**

**A. Description**

Final paper and bibliography (approximately 10-12 pages). This paper will deal with some original problem (biographical, bibliographical, or critical) including a complete check of existing treatments of the problem by other scholars. This is a documented, thesis-support paper. 35% of course grade.

**B. Finding a Topic**

You are to select a topic of interest to you that you would like to explore in depth. In some cases this topic may originate in the research you have done for your seminar report, or in others it will come from question that strikes you as warranting further investigation. For this paper you can draw from your readings of Fitzgerald or Hemingway (or if you decide to something that involves comparison/contrast). For example, if you found Nick's reliability as narrator in the great *Gatsby* of particular interest, you could closely examine this subject in your paper. Or if you found the narration in *The Sun Also Rises* to be of particular interest (or to raise questions or pose problems), you could closely examine the narrative viewpoint of the novel. Another example: if you found "Winter Dreams" and "Absolution" interesting in their association to *The Great Gatsby* you might explore the topic of the cluster stories that surround *Gatsby*, coming up with a thesis about how Fitzgerald used his stories as a workshop for that novel. If you decide to work with Hemingway, you might, for example, compare his way of ending several of his early stories with the way he chooses to end *The Sun Also Rises* or *A Farewell to Arms*. Alternately you might study the evolution of the Hemingway Code from the early stories, through *The Sun Also Rises* and *A Farewell to Arms*. If you choose to look at the two authors together or next to each other, you might examine both writers' view of and characterization of women in selected works. I encourage you to find something interesting to you and then to begin thinking of ways you could examine it closely in a 10-12-page paper.

**C. Research**

In case you have trouble finding sources, use a bibliography in one of the recent studies you have consulted and search through it for titles that seem to be close to your topic. You can also go through the MLAIB or the annual bibliographies in the volumes of American Literary Scholarship **For a 10-12-page I think you should consult at least eight or ten secondary sources and integrate many (or most) of them in your paper. The paper should have a bibliography and should be documented using the MLA style.**

**D. Tips**

In coming up with a suitable topic for this length paper, think of it in parts. Suppose you chose to do a study of the stories that cluster around *The Great Gatsby*. In this case there are approximately five stories that relate directly to the novel. Imagine then in this case that you would have an introduction of approximately one or two pages, perhaps; and in this introduction you would acquaint your reader with the broad topic, with the research done on it, and with your narrow thesis. This would mean that you would have approximately 1-2 pages to devote to a study of each story and its relationship to the novel. This would leave you a page or so for a formal conclusion. This is, of course, just one way of doing this, but the main idea is to break you topic up into manageable sections so that you will not be overwhelmed by length. Doing this will allow you to see if the topic is a reasonable one for a 10-12- page paper.

**Please don't hesitate to run trial ideas by me.**