

Fitzgerald/Hemingway Seminar (Graduate)  
Biographical Snapshot  
Dr. Mangum

Description from Syllabus:

**Oral Report (SR): Biographical Snapshot:** Seminar Report no longer than ten minutes long on a biographical topic from the list provided on handouts. This report (combined with biographical reports from every member of the seminar) will provide those foundational and biographical contexts important in the lives of Fitzgerald and Hemingway. Two stipulations for this Biographical Snapshot report: (1) the report must have a sharply focused thesis or a claim, and your report should be organized around this claim, and (2) the report cannot exceed ten minutes since we will be on a tight schedule (time yourself at home before you give your presentation in class). For this assignment you will **turn in only a statement of your central claim and a bibliography of works consulted**, which you will turn in one week after your seminar report. This list should contain a minimum of eight sources, four of which need to be primary sources (letters, ledger entries, notebook entries, other things by Fitzgerald or Hemingway). Sources other than primary ones will be secondary sources such as biographies. Your online sources must be scholarly ones (i.e., from "edu" sites or sites such scholarly one as the DAB online; no sources like Wikipedia, for example). Your entries must conform to MLA style as contained in the Eighth Edition of the *MLA Handbook*. 10%

Seminar Reports: Suggestions for Preparing

The object of this seminar report is for you to acquaint the other seminar members with your subject, which means that you will go out and look for any information you can find on it and then organize the material into a form that you can present in approximately 15 minutes. On the one hand this will mean that you draw on your research skill, searching out the topic in any way that you can in the library. On the other hand, I will be one of your resources. I will be able to lead you to sources you may not have found in your own preliminary research. I would prefer that you do a little digging on your own first and then let me help you fill in the gaps. [If you were giving a seminar report on the specific subject of the Fitzgerald Flapper, for example, your best source would be *The Romantic Egotists* (the large picture/scrapbook that I've brought to class a couple of times. This will contain reproductions of a half dozen articles that Fitzgerald wrote on the flapper. So these will definitely help. You would probably also want to go to the Oxford English dictionary and see if you can trace the origin of the term "flapper." You would also want to check books on the shelf (PS3511) to see if "flapper" is mentioned in the index, then go to that source. You should in the course of your research uncover references to stories and novels in which Fitzgerald recreates variations of the flapper, and while you will not have time to read all of them, you should at least make an effort to discover what the Fitzgerald flapper in fiction is. Then put this in the context of what you have learned about the flapper generally.] What you are doing is following a research trail, and part of the challenge of the assignment is for you to develop such a trail on your own. Your end product for this assignment (the thing that you turn in) will be a

bibliography that any other seminar member could use to follow your trail and do further exploration if he or she wanted to. Your fifteen-minute presentation will be the tip of the iceberg of what you have actually found, but it will be your best attempt to communicate what you have learned in your research about the subject you've chosen. [If you were doing a report on the Fitzgerald Flapper, for example, I would think the most helpful places for you to go, at least at the beginning, then, would be these (you will at least eight sources):

*The Romantic Egotists*

*Some Sort of Epic Grandeur* by Bruccoli (on reserve)

*The Oxford English Dictionary*

The stories in *Flappers and Philosophers*

*The Far Side of Paradise* by Mizener (on reserve)

*F. Scott Fitzgerald in Context* (on reserve)

*Cambridge Companion to F. Scott Fitzgerald* (on reserve)

*Zelda* (Nancy Milford's biography; on reserve) Any of the numerous volumes of Fitzgerald correspondence (on reserve)

The indexes of any books you find in PS3511, searching for "flapper"

Additional things you turn up in your research]

In your presentation you can use any kinds of things that you think will help people absorb your main points. Organize your presentation clearly, and try to find an interesting angle. One thing that you might do is to have at least a soft thesis and organize your thoughts around this. I will grade you on the thoroughness of your research, on your organization of the material you present, and on the comprehensiveness of the bibliography you turn in after the presentation. You should plan to turn these in one week after your seminar presentation. Here is a **sample** partial bibliography from a past seminar presentation on The Biographical Underpinnings of *The Sun Also Rises* (your bibliography will have eight entries):

Baker, Sheridan. *Ernest Hemingway: An Introduction and Interpretation*. New York: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 1967.

Brian, Denis. *The True Gen*. New York: Grove, 1988.

Bruccoli, Matthew J. *Fitzgerald and Hemingway: A Dangerous Friendship*. Columbia, SC: Manly, 1999.

Hemingway, Ernest. *The Letters of Ernest Hemingway: Volume 1, 1907-1922*, eds. Sandra Spanier and Robert Trogden. New York: Cambridge, 2011.

Hemingway, Ernest. *The Sun Also Rises*. New York: Scribner's, 1986.

Meyers, Jeffrey. *Hemingway: A Biography*. New York: Harper & Row, 1985.

Moddelmog, Debra A. and Suzanne del Gizzo, eds. *Ernest Hemingway In Context*. New York: Cambridge, 2013.

Reynolds, Michael. *Hemingway: The Paris Years*. Cambridge: Blackwell, 1990.