

Sinatra Era Literature and Beyond

In this course, students will examine literary texts of the early twentieth to twenty-first century based in or around the cities that comprise Thornton-Donovan's 2015-2016 thematic study of the iconic Frank Sinatra. Since how we read is as important as what we read, this course will initially focus on defining specific types of literary criticism (e.g., postmodern, deconstruction, etc.) before segueing into close readings of the texts themselves. As we read, we will consider not only critical interpretive lenses, but also the ways in which the boundaries between fiction and non-fictional texts blur, censorship, and the influence of the Lost Generation (e.g., Hemingway, Fitzgerald) on modern writers. Students will be expected to close read texts, listen actively, engage in class discussions, demonstrating understanding of literary terms (e.g., figurative language, narration, etc.) and elements (e.g., plot, conflict, theme, etc.). Further, students will write essays using several rhetorical modes (e.g., description, definition, narration, argumentation). Our book list will include:

HOBOKEN, NEW JERSEY

Philip Roth's *Goodbye Columbus* (1959)

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Erik Larson's *The Devil in the White City* (2003)

HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA

F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Love of the Last Tycoon* (1941)

PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

Norman Mailer's *The Deer Park* (1955)

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA



Joan Didion's *Play It as It Lays* (1970)

HAVANA, CUBA

Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* (1952)

MIAMI, FLORIDA

Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937)