

TERM: Spring 2026

COURSE TITLE: Hemingway's Problems

COURSE NUMBER: ENGL 4600.02

TIMES/DAYS: 3:40 pm – 5:20 pm / TR

INSTRUCTOR: KJ Peters

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

Hemingway was the American literary voice of the twentieth century and the talisman of American identity in a time of war and social upheaval. From the 1950s to the 1990s, Hemingway was a staple of university literature courses, and creative writers studied his prose to learn elision from the master. Writers such as Norman Mailer, Joan Didion, J.D. Salinger, and John Updike have claimed Hemingway as their literary hero. Yet, Hemingway is rarely taught due to his problematic portrayal of women, his unsophisticated understanding of gender, and his hyper-masculinity that leads young men to grow beards, drink too much, and hone their expressions of indifference. A reevaluation of Hemingway is due because our cultural moment resonates with Hemingway's. Much like Hemingway's time, we are experiencing a journalistic evolution that shapes the news around the constancy of war, a distrust of financial markets and structures, and a reshuffling of national limits and global involvement. In this course, we will study Hemingway's work and his time to understand how his writing and characters became models for so many.

#### STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Understand the literary techniques and motifs of Hemingway's style.  
Understand the themes common to Hemingway's work.  
Understand Hemingway's influence on American Literature.  
Examine the critical reception of Hemingway's writing during his time and now.

#### PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND

Must have passed FFYS and Rhetorical Arts and hold upper-class standing.

#### REQUIRED TEXTS

*In Our Time*. ISBN-13:9780684822761 Scribner (1925)  
*A Moveable Feast*. ISBN-13:9781439182710 Scribner (1964)  
*The Sun Also Rises* ISBN-13: 9781501121968 Scribner (1926)  
*To Have and Have Not* ISBN-13:978-0684818986 Scribner (1937)  
*Old Man and the Sea*. ISBN: 978-0684801223 Scribner. (1952)

#### COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

Weekly blogs  
Conference proposal, or book resume, or book review  
Mid-term draft  
Final research paper

**This course fulfills the following undergraduate English Major requirement:**

**Upper Division  
Elective**