

Short Paper Assignment: Five Pages Due October 26

Your assignment is to write a focused, analytic paper, 5–7 pp. in length, making an argument about **two texts** assigned in the course so far. There are two possibilities:

(1) A comparative paper about two literary texts (*Cosmopolitan* magazine,¹ James, Forster, Joyce, Stein, Hemingway). Your comparison must be **specific**, and you must **argue for its significance** through close analysis of details in both texts. At the same time, you must **restrict the scope** of your comparison carefully, so that you can carry it out convincingly in the space allotted. For example, if you discuss *The Ambassadors*, you will have space to discuss **at most** three passages of James's novel in detail. I will suggest some general possibilities for comparative arguments you might make in a paper of this kind in class.

(2) A paper that engages one of the optional secondary texts (Watt, Berman, Walkowitz, Robbins) as part of an argument about a primary text. In this case you should allude to the secondary text in order to **sharpen your own argument**; you might, for example, dispute particular points the scholar makes, or you could use the secondary text to help create a frame for your discussion of a primary text. Your discussion must still **focus on the primary text**, analyzing it in specific detail; on no account should you take up space summarizing or reviewing the secondary text in a general way. And again, as with the comparative essay, here too you must **restrict the scope** of your argument so that it fits compellingly in five to seven pages.

N.B. In neither case are you required to discuss issues related to cosmopolitanism and expatriation, though you are welcome to. In the second paper, you will be free to discuss texts from the first part of the course, so this is not your last opportunity to write about the reading so far.

Due Dates

You are required to turn in preliminary work on this paper, of at least **one page** in length, **by noon on Monday, October 19**. This work will not be graded, nor will it affect the assessment of the complete paper. Furthermore, you are very much encouraged to discuss your ideas with me in advance of the 19th. I will read complete drafts anytime before Saturday, October 24.

The paper is due **by noon on Monday, October 26**.

Please use the CourseWork site's Drop Box to turn in your work electronically **in PDF**. If you prefer to turn in paper, you may do so in my English department mailbox.

Format

Use one-inch margins, twelve-point font, and somewhere between one-and-a-half and double spacing. Citations should follow either MLA or Chicago style; consistency is more important than exact conformity to a manual. Proofread carefully. I will be glad to answer any style questions that come up.

If you turn in your work electronically, please use Portable Document Format (PDF). Ask me if you don't know how to produce PDFs in your word processor.

1. I will help you choose a magazine piece to work on, if this option interests you.