"You young people who served in the war – you are all a lost generation." (Gertrude Stein). This course looks at the American writers who lived in Paris in the 1920s discussing work by Fitzgerald, Hemingway and Eliot, and their controversial French contemporary Colette and questioning why Paris captured the mood of the times.

The term ‘Lost Generation’ is attributed to Gertrude Stein and refers to the group of young American intellectuals who came to maturity in or just after World War I and who lived in Paris from the end of the war until the start of the Great Depression.

The 1920s was a decade of disillusionment and shattered dreams as well as a time of change and increased freedom of expression. Writers of the day were stirred to articulate and reflect the mood of the people. This course will look at a sample of the writing of three significant members of the Lost Generation and one of their European contemporaries: the remarkable French writer, Colette. We will question why Paris captured the mood of the Lost Generation with particular reference to the influence of Ezra Pound and Gertrude Stein.

**Required reading**

Week 1: Introduction and extracts from the poetry of T.S. Eliot (handout in class).


Week 3: Ernest Hemingway, ‘Soldier’s Home’ and ‘Hills Like White Elephants’ (photocopies of these 2 short stories will be available on request).

Week 4: Colette, *Chérie*. 
Additional information

- No prior knowledge is required. The course is suitable for beginners.
- This course allows you to spend time exploring a subject for interest, among like-minded people, without formal assessment.
- There will be discussion activities during the course.

Intended learning outcomes

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- have a clear idea of what is meant by the term ‘lost generation’ and be able to put the writing into historical context.
- identify and be able to discuss the key issues that the texts address.
- analyse the writing, identifying modernistic techniques and their effectiveness in creating a sense of their times.

About the tutor

Denyse Straker studied for her BA through the University of Kent’s part-time programme at the Tonbridge Centre. She went on to do a research MA on depictions of child abuse in literature at the School of European Culture and Languages in Canterbury. She has been teaching Comparative Literature at Kent since 2001, and has taught a wide range of topics on the short course programme at Tonbridge as well as on undergraduate courses at Canterbury. She is particularly interested in American Literature and Women’s Studies as well as specialising in Travel Literature.
Short Course Programme
General information, terms & conditions

How to book a place
These courses are usually very popular so you are advised to apply as soon as possible. Places cannot be held without payment of the course fee.

- **Online** Booking is preferred. Please visit www.kent.ac.uk/tonbridge
- **By post** to us at the address below, using the application form in the programme booklet. Please note that you will not receive an acknowledgment of your paper application; your payment will usually be processed when the course becomes financially viable, otherwise we will notify you of cancellation approximately seven days prior to the course. A paper application affirms acceptance of our terms & conditions.

Course cancellation
As these short courses are self-financing, each course can only proceed if there are sufficient enrolments. Therefore, if a course is cancelled due to insufficient enrolments we aim to notify applicants approximately one week before the course start date; if there is no suitable alternative course, we will refund the appropriate course fee in full. The University of Kent reserves the right to cancel a course for this or any other reason in which case the relevant course fee will be refunded in full. We advise that you do not buy books or other course materials until that particular course is confirmed as taking place: please contact us if you are unsure.

If you find it necessary to cancel your place on a course, please let us know as soon as possible. Refund requests, including the reason, should be made by email or in writing to us at the address below. We reserve the right to retain all or part of the course fee if you request a refund after 14 days of your online booking being made or paper application being received. Discretionary, partial refunds may be made, after the deduction of an administrative handling fee as follows:

- a course fee of up to and including £42 will incur an administrative handling fee of £10.00
- a course fee of £43 and over will incur an administrative handling fee of £12.50.

The University reserves the right to:

a) exclude any student if the student’s presence is making it difficult for the class to function properly
b) cancel or amend the length of any course if the circumstances so warrant.

Neither the University of Kent, nor its staff, can be held responsible for any damage, loss or injury, however sustained, suffered by participants attending courses. Insurance is the student’s responsibility.

University Centre Tonbridge
For details of our other courses, news, events and location visit www.kent.ac.uk/tonbridge.

- Parking. There is plenty of public pay and display car parking locally, but please note that only selected car parks permit parking in excess of four hours; detailed information is available from www.tmbc.gov.uk. No parking is available here on site.
- Refreshments are not provided; food and drink can be purchased from any of the nearby café outlets - we are closely situated to the High Street and town centre. A hot drink vending machine is usually available on the ground floor of this building.

Mailing List and data protection
Those attending our courses are automatically added to our database and kept informed about new courses. This information is not released to outside organisations. Please write to us if you do not wish your details to be kept on our database.

*Please contact us if you have any queries or would like to register your email address to receive our course information updates. We look forward to welcoming you here soon.*

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