

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
- [www.unine.ch/lettres](http://www.unine.ch/lettres)

#### Seminar 4: Modern and Contemporary Literature: Americans Abroad (2AN1893)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
<b>Pilier B A - langue et littérature anglaises</b>	<b>Séminaire: 2 ph</b>	Voir ci-dessous	6

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

#### Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne

#### Equipe enseignante

Patrick Vincent

#### Contenu

"Europe is not only a museum, it is the habitat of people who have known more violence, more life than we have." Patricia Highsmith's journal entry of 31 March 1954 partly explains why so many of America's most iconic writers, including members of the so-called Lost Generation, lived expatriate lives and set their works in Europe. Whether drawn by adventure, cheaper living, or greater artistic, political or sexual freedom, they developed a mythical literary landscape, from Shakespeare and Sons in Paris to the running of the bulls in Pamplona, that continues to fascinate readers and draw thousands of visitors.

In the wake of Henry James, many of their texts focus on the cultural differences between the Old and the New World, or what the Master called the "International Theme." In this seminar, we will explore how two generations of mid-twentieth century writers imagined the relation between the United States and Europe. What did they find in France, Italy, or Spain that they could not find back home? How did their tales of love, art, crime, or adventure express their nation's deepest fears and anxieties? And did they continue to see the US as standing for innocence, Europe for knowledge? We'll end the course by asking if Americans are still interested in Europe today, and whether their overly essentializing national types remain operative.

#### Forme de l'évaluation

participation (10%), mid-semester in-class evaluation (30%) and final essay (60%)

#### Modalités de rattrapage

Students who fail the in-class evaluation or essay will have the opportunity to redo one or other, but not both.

In case of a pandemic, all teaching will be placed online.

The seminar AI policy will be outlined in the syllabus.

#### Documentation

Available at Payot:

Ernest Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises*  
Gertrude Stein, *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas*  
Patricia Highsmith, *The Talented Mr. Ripley*  
James Baldwin, *Giovanni's Room*

All other reading will be made available on the Moodle teaching platform.

#### Pré-requis

Successful completion of module 2.

#### Forme de l'enseignement

seminar

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##### **Objectifs d'apprentissage**

Au terme de la formation l'étudiant-e doit être capable de :

- Identify some of the key features of mid-20th century American fiction and non-fiction
- Recognise significant cultural differences between the US and Europe
- Analyse literary texts using theoretical, historical and close reading methods