

ENGL 3340-001 Fall 2013

Term Paper Assignment (25% of the final course grade; due on the final exam date, Monday 9 December).

Your annotated bibliography is the basis for this assignment. In compiling it, choose sources that are strongly interrelated. They must address authors or texts from the course syllabus, in the light of one of our four course themes. (Note that you are not limited to the theme in which an author or text appeared; hence *The Maltese Falcon* could be used for “City & Country,” or *The Sport of the Gods* for “Black & White.”)

Your term paper (10-12 pages) should go beyond annotation to explain common theoretical ideas, approaches, concerns, assumptions, and other interesting aspects of the scholarship you’ve collected.

This paper should not be *argumentative* – it should not have a thesis that you are trying to bolster with “evidence” – but it should be *exploratory* and *expository*. Try to answer the question “what is the value of contemporary literary scholarship?” Such a paper needs a balance between good will (the authors you’re reading are smart, well-educated people whose papers have been through peer review) and critical thinking (even so, their ideas are not the last word on a subject).