Fall 2017 (Fairfax) *The Old Man and the Sea*
Ernest Hemingway
A Close Reading

Instructor: Donna Macurdy
dfmacurdy@outlook.com
Day 1: Agenda
F409–Old Man and the Sea– Fall 2017

1. Announcements: Class Liaison
2. Admin. Stuff: Instructor
   Format for class:
   Day 1 & Day 2: Lecture: Background Information
   Days 3-8: Lecture/Discussion/Viewing
*HANDOUTS: Syllabus/Reading Schedule/Notes View Lecture
2. LECTURE : Instructor Notes on:
   – Novel – The Old Man and the Sea
     • Characters; Setting; Critical Response; Literary Terms
3. Viewing – Animated Version/Old Man
4. Wrap-Up- Online Resources:22 Essential Quotes from novel
THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA
THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA

• ACTUAL STORY BASED ON A TRUE INCIDENT
  – HEMINGWAY RECORDED THE STORY IN AN ARTICLE FOR GULFSTREAM (1936)

• 1952
  – AUGUST 28: LIFE MAGAZINE PUBLISHED STORY COMPLETE IN ONE ISSUE FOR TWENTY CENTS
  – SEPTEMBER 8: SCRIBNER’S PUBLISHED THE STORY, IN BOOK FORM, ELEVEN DAYS LATER FOR $3.00

• BOOK SOLD OVER 5 MILLION COPIES IN 48 HOURS
  – LIFE PUBLICATION DID NOT LESSEN DEMAND FOR HARDCOVER
  – FOR 6 MONTHS NOVEL REMAINED ON THE BEST-SELLERS’ LIST
“The Old Man and the Sea is a short novel, only 27,000 words. It is much simpler and enormously better than Mr. Hemingway's last book, "Across the River and Into the Trees."

No phony glamour girls and no bullying braggarts sentimentalized, almost to parody, distort its honest and elemental theme. No outbursts of spite or false theatricalism impede the smooth rush of its narrative.

Within the sharp restrictions imposed by the very nature of his story Mr. Hemingway has written with sure skill.”

Here is the master technician once more at the top of his form, doing superbly what he can do better than anyone else.”

But good as *The Old Man and the Sea* is, it is good only in a limited way. The fisherman is not a well-characterized individual. He is a symbol of an attitude toward life. He often thinks and talks poetically and symbolically and so artificially.

The old man thought:

"Why did they make birds so delicate and fine as those sea swallows when the ocean can be so cruel? She is kind and very beautiful. But she can be so cruel and it comes so suddenly and such birds that fly, dipping and hunting, with their small sad voices are made too delicately for the sea."

“A poetic and beautiful thought, but it seems Mr. Hemingway's rather than the old man’s.”

HEMINGWAY’S REACTION TO THE NOVEL’S SUCCESS

"Whatever I learned is in the story but I hope it reads simply and straight and all the things that are in it do not show but only are with you after you have read it. Don't you think it is a strange damn story that it should affect all of us (me especially) the way it does? I have had to read it now over two-hundred times and every time it does something to me. It's as though I had gotten finally what I had been working for all my life."
For a true writer each book should be a new beginning where he tries again for something that is beyond attainment. He should always try for something that has never been done or that others have tried and failed. Then sometimes, with great luck, he will succeed.

Hemingway upon receiving the Nobel Prize in literature, 1954

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-XCVKYacZJg
Cuban Facts: 11,308,764 (July 2004 est.) (Population)
Area: Slightly smaller than Pennsylvania
1902: Treaty of Paris established independence from Spain
1940-1959 Fulgencio Batista was the Cuban right-wing dictator
1959: Castro led a rebellion to overthrow existing government
Today: Government: Communist state w/14 provinces
Finca La Vigía
Hemingway's Home in Cuba

www.hemingwaycuba.com/hemingway-house-cuba.html
Main Characters

**SANTIAGO – CUBAN FISHERMAN**
- Old man of undetermined age
- A history of bad luck
- Interested in baseball/gambling
- Has traveled to Africa

**In the course of his adventure Santiago:**
- Enjoys and respects living creatures
- Shows great determination and acceptance
- Develops a sense of humility without losing pride
- Demonstrates a capacity for endurance/suffering
Hemingway's longtime friend and boat captain, Gregorio Fuentes, was said to be the inspiration for main character in *The Old Man and the Sea*. 

Hemingway's Boat Pilar
Main Characters

• MANOLIN – SANTIAGO’S APPRENTICE
  – A teenager; only five years old when Santiago first takes him out fishing
  – Comes from a family of fishermen
  – Forbidden to go out fishing w/Santiago
  – Concerned for Santiago’s health/well-being
  – Appreciates responsibilities Santiago gives him

In the course of the old man’s adventure Manolin: Grows from a dutiful son obeying his parents to a young adult willing to defy his parents and fish again with the old man out of concern for him
Minor Characters

- MARLIN – SANTIAGO’S GREATEST CHALLENGE
- THE SEA – CENTRAL CHARACTER IN THE NOVEL
- MARTIN – CAFÉ OWNER IN VILLAGE
- PERICO – OWNER OF THE BODEGA WHO PROVIDES OLD MAN WITH NEWSPAPERS/SPORTS NEWS
THE CODE HERO IS A COMMON FIGURE, IN HEMINGWAY’S NOVELS: A MAN WHO LIVES HIS LIFE IN STRICT ADHERENCE TO A SET OF RULES OF CONDUCT.
CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CODE HERO

• A CODE HERO IS:
  – AN INDIVIDUALIST
  – FREE-WILLED
  – MAN OF MORALS & PRINCIPLES
  – STOIC I.E., MAN OF FEW EMOTIONS
  – MAN WHO FACES DEATH AS A RITE OF MANHOOD
  – MAN OF ADVENTURE
  – BELIEF IN NADA
The Code Heroes' Journey

Helper

Code Hero

Return Transformed
A Full Participant in the Code

Obstacles
Demonstrate Dignity in the midst of the struggle

Display admiration for the opponent

Call to Adventure
Follow personal set of values that encompass a Noble Action

Gain a Skill
Acquire determination, discipline and perseverance to get job done

Return Transformed
A Full Participant in the Code

Obstacles
Demonstrate Dignity in the midst of the struggle

Display admiration for the opponent

Call to Adventure
Follow personal set of values that encompass a Noble Action

Gain a Skill
Acquire determination, discipline and perseverance to get job done

Helper
Code Heroes
In Hemingway’s Novels

1. HERO WHO FINDS MEANING IN THE CODE
   Jake Barnes Journalist *Sun Also Rises* (1926)

2. HERO WHOSE ADVENTURE INVOLVES STRUGGLE & DEATH
   Frederick Henry *A Farewell to Arms* (1929)

3. HERO WHO BELIEVES WINNING IS LESS IMPORTANT THAN PLAYING THE GAME.
   Robert Jordan *For Whom the Bell Tolls* (1940)
HEMINGWAY’S HERO

Old Man and the Sea

TWO HEROES EMERGE:

YOUNG BOY
– USUALLY WOUNDED PHYSICALLY & PSYCHOLOGICALLY – MUST UNDERGO THE ORDEAL OF LIFE.

OLD MAN
GOES THROUGH PERIOD OF DOUBT; BECOMES FULL PARTICIPANT IN THE CODE

BOTH ARE:
LONERS - OPERATING OUTSIDE OF SOCIETY, FAMILY, & OR COMMUNITY.
Old Man and the Sea
Film Versions

1990 TV Miniseries

1958 Film

2013 Survival Drama

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZMoIoI5u5aSQ

Animated Version: Aleksandr Petrov
Online Resource

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D1nww4q8RdE