

Course description.

The purpose of this class is to analyze seminal texts by 19th century American writers. It will focus primarily but not exclusively on Nathaniel Hawthorne, Herman Melville, Henry James, Mark Twain, Stephen Crane, Kate Chopin and others. It will argue the centrality of novels such as Hawthorne's The Scarlet Letter in the development of American literature; it will discuss the importance of Melville's "Benito Cereno" and Twain's Adventures of Huck Finn in the 19th century controversies over race and it will focus on Chopin's The Awakening as a proto-feminist text. At the same time, it will connect such texts with the literary currents of the second half of the 19th century, but also with American traditional modes of writing.

Texts.

All texts are from the Norton Anthology of American Literature 8th edition, volumes B and C.

Nathaniel Hawthorne. The Scarlet Letter (1850).

Herman Melville. "Benito Cereno" (1855-56).

Mark Twain. Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (1884).

Kate Chopin. The Awakening (1899).

Course outline.

12/2 Introduction **26/2** The Scarlet Letter **5/3** The Scarlet Letter **12/3** The Scarlet Letter **19/3** "Benito Cereno" **26/3** "Benito Cereno" **2-15** EASTER BREAK **16/4** Adventures of Huck Finn **23/4** Adventures of Huck Finn **30/4** Adventures of Huck Finn **7/5** The Awakening **14/5** The Awakening—**21/5** REVIEW **28/5** HOLIDAY.

THE BIBLIOGRAPHY ON THESE MAJOR AUTHORS IS VAST. STUDENTS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO SEARCH FOR AND CONSULT ARTICLES THAT HAVE APPEARED ON INDIVIDUAL AUTHORS ON THIS LIST AS WELL AS ON MAJOR 19th CENTURY AUTHORS. OUR LIBRARY HOLDS A NUMBER OF BOOKS ON 19th CENTURY AMERICAN LITERATURE.

USE THE **PMLA** BIBLIOGRAPHY ONLINE IN THE LIBRARY FOR EASY REFERENCE.

USE **JSTOR**, the **HEAL LINK** AS WELL AS **E-BOOKS**.

SEMINAL WORKS.

- Baym, Nina. (1981) Woman's Fiction: Guide to Novels by and About Women in America, 1820-70. Ithaca: Cornell UP.
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- (1978) The American Jeremiad. U. of Wisconsin P.
- Davidson, Cathy N. (1986) Revolution and the Word: The Rise of the Novel in America. New York: Oxford UP.
- Brown, Gillian. (1991) Domestic Individualism: Imagining Self in Nineteenth-Century America. Berkeley: U. of California P.
- Douglas, Ann. (1978) The Feminization of American Culture. New York: Knopf.
- Fielder, Leslie. (1960) Love and Death in the American Novel. New York: Dell Books.
- F. O Matthiessen. (1941) American Renaissance: Art and Expression in the Age of Emerson and Whitman. New York: Oxford UP.
- Michaels, Walter Benn, and Donald Pease, eds. (1985) The American Renaissance Reconsidered. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins UP.
- Leverenz, David. (1989) Manhood and the American Renaissance. Ithaca, NY: Cornell UP.
- Slotkin, Richard. (1973) Regeneration Through Violence: The Mythology of the American Frontier, 1600-1860. Middletown, CT: Wesleyan UP.
- Sundquist, Eric. (1998) To Wake the Nations: Race in the Making of American Literature. Oxford, Mass.: Harvard UP.
- Trachtenberg, Alan. (1982) The Incorporation of America: Culture and Society in the Gilded Age. New York: Hill and Wang.
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