**Purpose of Course:** To introduce (a) philosophical trends in American literature, (b) the artistry and concerns of US writers from approximately the Civil War to current day; and to develop an appreciation for literature.

### Course Calendar

**Jan 12** Introduction to the course. Review Romanticism.
- 16 Whitman, read "When Lilacs ...", 1074; "Patient Spider," 1080.

- 19 Melville, 1081- ("Bartleby the Scrivener"); and all poetry. Begin commentaries.
- 21 Emily Dickinson, 1167- Poems #214, 216, 328, 449, 465;
- 23 Dickinson, #510, 585, 712, 986, 1545.

- 26 Mark Twain, 1237-1316: Quiz #1. ("Jumping Frog," and *HF*, ch's I-XVII)
- 28 Twain, continued
- 30 *Huck Finn*, 1317-1394, Quiz #2. (HF, ch's XVIII-XXXIII)

**Feb 2** Bret Harte, 1473+: all ("Outcasts of Poker Flat").
- 4 Ambrose Bierce, 1453+ ("Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge")
- 6 No class: Winter Carnival Break
- 9 Emma Lazarus, 1217+. Discuss Exam.
- 11 Exam #1.
- 13 Discuss Regionalism. Sarah Orne Jewett, 1586+: all ("White Heron").

- 16 Mary E. Wilkins Freeman, 1611: all ("A New England Nun").
- 18 Booker T. Washington, 1621+: all.
- 20 WEB Dubois, 1702+: all.

- 23 Charlotte Perkins Gilman, 1658- All. ("Yellow Wallpaper"); Quiz.
- 25 Edith Wharton, 1671- All ("Souls Belated")
- 27 Stephen Crane, 1719+. Read "Blue Hotel"; film.

**March 1-7** Spring Break

- 8 Discuss Naturalism. Stephen Crane, (cont.) All ("Open Boat," "Episode of War").
- 10 Jack London, 1761+: all ("To Build a Fire")
- 12 Zitkala Sa, 1792+. Read all. ("Impressions of an Indian Childhood")

- 17 Willa Cather, 1841+. Read "Neighbor Rosicky."
- 19 Frost, 1878+. Read first four poems, including "Hired Hand."

- 22 Frost. Read next seven poems
- 24 Read remaining poems. Discuss Exam #2.
- 26 Exam #2

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<tr>
<th>Grading</th>
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<td>Participation: 5%</td>
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<td>Commentaries and Synopses: 10</td>
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<td>Quizzes: 10</td>
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<td>Exam #1: 20</td>
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<td>Final Exam: 30</td>
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May 3-7 Final Exam Week

What is the Class Attendance Policy?
My expectation is that you will attend all classes. Since illness is part of life, I will allow three class absences for minor illness, plant trips, personal reasons, etc. More than three class absences could drop your grade one level (B to C; C to D, etc.). Missing six classes (two weeks) is grounds for failure.

If you must miss class, let me know beforehand if possible. Inform me and/or the Dean of Students Office about extended illness or family emergency.

As a Disabled Person, What Are My Rights?
MTU complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disability Act of 1990 (ADA).

If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at MTU, please call Dr. Gloria Melton, Associate Dean of Students, (2212).

For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, the department head, or the Affirmative Action Office (3310).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Readings
Please read the biographical blur at the beginning of each author's selection to understand better the writer's perspective. Read the assigned material very carefully. For poems and other short pieces, read the material at least twice.

We will not be able to discuss all works in any great detail, but you will still be responsible for reading everything listed in the syllabus unless the instructor tells you otherwise.

What are Commentaries?
You will submit a minimum of 225 words (about one double-spaced typed page) on each day's assigned reading. You need not write more than one commentary/class, regardless of how many pieces are discussed on that day. The commentaries are always due on the day we discuss the topic.

No commentaries will be accepted later than the class meeting immediately following the due date. In other words, you may submit Monday's commentary on the following Wednesday.

Be sure you are consistent with headings on your commentary pages so you receive proper credit. In the upper right hand corner of the first page, print your name, then under that print the first author or title of the day's reading, whichever is more logical. In case of two authors, or two separate pieces, use the one first listed in the syllabus. Some authors we read on more than one day. In that case, number each of the submissions. For example:

Joe Smith
Twain #1

The commentaries will not be polished essays but merely a collection of thoughts/ideas on the assigned reading. You may discuss any aspect of the material in your 225 words, but you might focus on the author's interests. For example, what does the author wish to discuss about life? Does the author employ a unique perspective on a particular topic? Does the topic concern you? Avoid spending your 225 words rehashing the plot. You may, however, wish to refer to parts of the plot in your discussion.

Grading will be pass/fail on individual commentaries, with the number of commentaries you submit providing the letter grade (e.g., if you submit all or almost all assigned commentaries your grade will be an A; all but a few, a B, etc.).

What are Synopses?
Everyone will take a turn writing a synopsis of a class meeting, identifying new vocabulary, key points of discussion, etc. I will assign dates around week #2. Write your synopsis as soon as you can after class meets, and send it to me via email. I will look it over for correctness, then share with everyone via our course email list:

HU2502-L@mtu.edu.