HU 2502: American Experience in Literature II  
Spring 2006

Instructor: Dr. Jack Jobst  
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Class email list: HU2502-L@mtu.edu

Texts:  
Classroom, and time: Walker 108; 1105-12:20

Purpose of Course: To introduce (a) artistic movements and trends in American Literature; (b) the artistry and focus of US writers from approximately the Civil War to current day; and (c) to develop an appreciation of literature's power to entertain and teach.

Course Calendar

24 Mark Twain, p. 212. Huckleberry Finn. 219-299; quiz #1.
26 Mark Twain, HF. 299-365; quiz #2.
31 Sarah Orne Jewett, 595, “White Heron”; Kate Chopin, 620, “The Storm.”

Feb 2 Mary E. Wilkins Freeman, 723, “Revolt of Mother.”
7 Gertrude S. Bonnin, 1006, “Impressions of an Indian Childhood.” Exam #1
9 Winter Carnival Break
14 Charlotte Perkins Gilman, 831, “Yellow Wallpaper.”
16 Edith Wharton, 845, “Souls Belated.”
21 Booker T. Washington, 744, all; W.E.B. Dubois, 876, “Of Mr. B.T.W and others”
23 Stephen Crane, 901: “Open Boat,” “Blue Hotel.” Discuss Literary Naturalism.
28 Volume D begins: Edgar Lee Masters, 1100, all; E.A. Robinson, 1104, all.

March 2 Wm Carlos Williams, 1263, “Young,” “Queen Anne,” “Widow’s Lament,” “Red Wheelbarrow,” “This is Just to Say,” others TBA.
23 Spring Break

April 4 Wm. Faulkner, 1693: “Barn Burning”; as time permits: Theodore Roethke, 2690: TBA (volume E)
6 Ernest Hemingway, 1846: “Snows of Kilimanjaro”
13 John Updike, 2267: “Separating”

- OVER -
April 18 Philip Roth, 2276 “Defender of the Faith”; Raymond Carver 2367: “Cathedral.”
20 Louise Erdrich, 2561: “Fleur.” Bring #2 pencil. Discuss Final Exam.

What is the Class Attendance Policy?
My expectation is that you will attend all classes. Since illness, however, is part of life, I will allow a total of three class absences for minor illness, plant trips, personal reasons, etc. More than three absences could drop your grade; more than four is grounds for failure, unless there are extenuating circumstances, which you should bring to my attention immediately. My experience is that students who miss more than two classes always do poorly on the subsequent exams.

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, 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
Read the biographical blurb 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 author. The commentaries are always due on the day we discuss the topic.

Commentaries will generally not be accepted later than the class meeting immediately following the due date. In other words, you may submit Tuesday's commentary on the following Thursday. If you have special reasons for submitting a commentary late, talk to me.

Be sure you are consistent with headings on your commentaries pages so you receive proper credit. In the upper right corner of the first page, print your name, then under that print the author or title of the day's reading, whichever is more logical.

Some authors we read on more than one day. In that case, number each of the submissions. For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Joe Smith</th>
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<td>Twain #1</td>
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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, such as Twain on slavery? If so, in what way is this unique?
- Is the piece you read controversial in any way? For example, Huck Finn is controversial because of the "N" word. How do you feel about this?
- Does the author's topic concern your life in any way? For example, does the piece deal with relationship issues between two people?

Please don't spend your 225 words rebasing the plot, or copying the biography from our text. You may, however, wish to refer to parts of the plot or the writer's life in your discussion, as it is relevant.

Grading will be pass/fail on individual commentaries, with the number 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.).

Will extra credit be available?
One possibility is writing a synopsis of one or more class discussions. Tell me if you are interested and know of classmates who are absent for health or family reasons.

Write your synopsis as soon as possible after class meets, and send it to me via email. I will look it over for correctness, and then forward it to everyone via our course email list: HU2502-L@mtu.edu.

Other possibilities for extra credit include lengthier definitions of artistic or philosophical movements, such as Realism, Naturalism, Modernism, Existentialism, and Post-Modernism. Discussion of these topics occurs as we progress through the years of American Lit, so let me know as soon as possible about your potential interest in one or more. You should research your topic, and then send me the results; I will check over your work, and then send it out for the class to read (with you receiving the authorship credit).

Grading

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<th>Participation:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commentaries:</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>Quizzes:</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam #1:</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td>Exam #2:</td>
<td>30</td>
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