ENGLISH 2290  Introduction to American Literature  
Autumn 2012  
Stillman 100, MW 12:40-1:35 pm  
Professor Jon Erickson  
Denney 505, Hrs: Tues. 10:30 am -Noon  
292-6069, erickson.5@osu.edu

Recitation Instructors:  
Sarah Dunlap, F 12:40-1:35pm Pomerene 0208 – dunlap.202@osu.edu  
Kristen Johnson, F 12:40-1:35 Koffolt Lab 0205  
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THE PURPOSE OF THIS CLASS. This course presents a broad survey of American literature from the 16th century to the late 20th century. The term literature encompasses not just fiction, poetry and drama, but also non-fictional forms such as essays, speeches, and memoirs that have contributed to, and reflected upon, the developing cultural and social life of the nation. Questions will be raised about issues of freedom and equality, the conflict between the authority of religious faith and natural reason, the relation of the individual to society and to nature, the problems of slavery, racism, and cultural self-determination, the aesthetic value of literary styles in the course of modernization, and ultimately what constitutes the distinctive nature of a literature called American.

ASSIGNMENTS: Six (6) Variable Deadline Response Papers, Midterm and Final Exam (both Take-Home).

Variable Deadline Response Papers. The student has a choice of two possible deadlines within spaces of two weeks each for a total of 6 papers. The response will be to the student’s choice of text covered the week it is turned in to Recitation instructors. Papers will be 1-2 pages, typed, double-spaced, and employing correct grammatical and compositional form. Possible deadlines (Fridays) are as follows:

1. Aug 31 (Wk 2) or Sept 7 (Wk 3)  
2. Sept 14 (Wk 4) or Sept 21 (Wk 5)  
3. Sept 28 (Wk 6) or Oct. 12 (Wk 8)  
4. Oct 19 (Wk 9) or Oct. 26 (Wk 10)  
5. Nov. 2 (Wk 11) or Nov. 9 (Wk 12)  
6. Nov. 16 (Wk 13) or Nov. 30 (Wk 15)  
(Week 7 is not included due to Mid-Term, Week 14 not included due to Thanksgiving Holiday)

Take-Home Exams Choice of 3 essay questions out of 5 or 6. Each question deals with a theme that is dealt with by two or three authors in their own specific way. Students will explain how it is dealt with by each author, with possible comparison/contrast. Answers should include citations from the text as evidence or starting point for analysis. Papers should be typed and double-spaced.

Mid-Term Take-Home Exam (Week 7)  
Pick up Friday, October 4 from Recitation section.  
Turn in Monday, October 8 to Recitation Instructor at Lecture.

Final Take-Home Exam (Week 16)  
Pick up Monday, December 3 at last Lecture class.  
Turn in Friday, December 7 to Recitation Instructor by 5 pm.
GRADE BREAKDOWN:
Mid-Term: 30%
Final: 30%
Response Papers Average: 30%
Recitation Class Participation: 10%

EXPECTED OF THE STUDENT:

Regular and engaged attendance. If you miss more than 4 classes (including both lectures and recitation sections), your grade will be affected negatively. Class attendance sheets will be circulated for you to sign. Participation in recitation discussions will be factored into your course grade. You are expected to complete each reading assignment before the lecture class meeting on that work, as indicated on the calendar below. You should bring your text and writing materials to every class, and you should also come prepared with notes for the purpose of discussion during Friday recitation sections. There is no need to submit excuses for your two absences, as the same policy applies regardless of your reason for missing class. Given the amount of reading, it is suggested that readings for the entire week be attempted on the weekends, rather than waiting until Tuesday to read for Wednesday’s class.

For Papers and Take-Home Exams, you are expected to have a firm command of basic writing skills. If you need help with your writing, contact recitation instructors or consult the Writing Center, which holds one-to-one writing tutorials with any member of the OSU community at 485 Mendenhall Laboratory (Monday-Friday 9:30-5:30); or at the Younkin Success Center (Monday-Thursday 5:30-7:30); or through the Carmen chat system (www.carmen.osu.edu). Call 688-5865 or go to www.cstw.org to make an appointment or have an online tutorial.

GEC Requirement. This course fulfills a GEC requirement in Category 5. Arts and Humanities 5. B. Analysis of Texts and Works of Art. As such it has the following Goals/Rationale: students should evaluate significant writing and works of art. Such studies develop capacities for aesthetic and historical response and judgment; interpretation and evaluation; critical listening, reading, seeing, thinking, and writing; and experiencing the arts and reflecting on that experience. And the course has the following Learning Objectives: Students develop abilities to be enlightened observers or active participants in the visual, spatial, musical, theatrical, rhetorical or written arts. Students describe and interpret achievement in the arts and literature. Students explain how works of art and literature express social and cultural issues.

Academic misconduct and plagiarism
Plagiarism is the representation of another’s works or ideas as one’s own. It includes the unacknowledged word for word use and/or paraphrasing of another person’s work, and/or the inappropriate unacknowledged use of another person’s ideas. All cases of suspected plagiarism, in accordance with university rules, will be reported to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. If COAM determines that you have violated the University’s Code of Student Conduct, the sanctions for the violation could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the University. For more information about academic misconduct, see the section “3335-23-04 Prohibited conduct” at http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp.

Accessibility
The Office for Disability Services, located in 150 Pomerene Hall, offers services for students with documented disabilities. Contact the ODS at 292-3307, or visit http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/.
TEXTS:

Mark Twain, Pudd'nhead Wilson
Thomas Pynchon, The Crying of Lot 49

WEEK ONE
What is American Literature?
August 24 (F)  Recitation

WEEK TWO
Wilderness and the City Upon A Hill
August 27 (M)  William Bradford, Plymouth Plantation (58-75); John Winthrop, “A Model of Christian Charity” (76-87); The Trial of Anne Hutchinson (Carmen); Roger Williams, Norton introduction (87-88), “The Bloudy Tenent of Persecution” (Carmen).
August 29 (W)  Mary Rowlandson: From A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration (118-34); Anne Bradstreet: “Before the Birth of One of Her Children” (107), “Here Follow Some Verses upon the Burning of Our House” (109)
August 31 (F)  Recitation

WEEK THREE
18th Century. From The Great Awakening
September 3 (M)  LABOR DAY: NO CLASS
September 7 (F)  Recitation

WEEK FOUR
18th Century. To Enlightenment, Revolution and Republic
September 10 (M)  Benjamin Franklin, “The Way to Wealth” (220-226), and Autobiography Parts One (231-276) and Two (280-292).
September 14 (F)  Recitation
WEEK FIVE 19th Century. The New American Literary Voice


September 21 (F)  Recitation

WEEK SIX 19th Century. The Individual Between Nature and Society

September 24 (M)  Alexis de Tocqueville, from Democracy in America (Carmen); Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Self-Reliance” (532-550)

September 26 (W)  Henry David Thoreau, from Walden (844-920)

September 28 (F)  Recitation

WEEK SEVEN 19th Century. Slavery and the Divided Nation

October 1 (M)  Frederick Douglass, Narrative of the Life (920-998); “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?”(988-991); Abraham Lincoln, “The Gettysburg Address,” “Second Inaugural Address” (732-736).

October 2 (W)  Herman Melville, “Benito Cereno” (1118-1174)

October 4 (F)  Recitation  PICK UP MIDTERM TAKEHOME EXAM

WEEK EIGHT 19th Century. Democracy’s Poetry: Expansion and Inwardness

October 8 (M)  MIDTERM DUE  Walt Whitman: “Song of Myself” (1011-1055).

October 10 (W)  Emily Dickinson: #339 (1207) “I like a look of Agony”; #340 (1207) “I felt a Funeral, in my Brain”; #348 (1208) “I would not paint- a picture”; #365 (1211) “I know that He exists”; #372 (1211) “After great pain, a formal feeling comes”; #373 (1212) “This World is no conclusion”; #479 (1214) “Because I could not stop for Death”; #591 (1215) “I heard a Fly buzz”; #598 (1216) “The Brain-is wider than the Sky”; #764 (1218) “My Life stood- a Loaded Gun”.

October 12 (F)  Recitation

WEEK NINE 19th Century. Racism and Class

October 15 (M)  Twain, Pudd’nhead Wilson (Dover).

October 17 (W)  Pudd’nhead Wilson, continued

October 19 (F)  Recitation
WEEK TEN 19th Century. Realism, Regionalism and Gender

October 22 (M) William Dean Howells, from Novel-Writing and Novel-Reading (1747-1750); Henry James, from The Art of Fiction (1750-1752); Henry James, Daisy Miller (1495-1532).

October 24 (W) Kate Chopin, “Desirée’s Baby” (1615-1619); Charlotte Perkins Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper” (1682-1695).

October 26 (F) Recitation

WEEK ELEVEN 19th-20th Century. From the Plains to the Harlem Renaissance

October 29 (M) Frederick Jackson Turner, “The Significance of the Frontier” (1852-1856); Stephen Crane, “The Blue Hotel” (1795-1814); Willa Cather, “Neighbor Rosicky” (1903-1923).


November 2 (F) Recitation

WEEK TWELVE 20th Century. Local/Cosmopolitan Voices: Prose and Poetry

November 7 (M) William Faulkner, “A Rose for Emily” (2218-224); Ernest Hemingway, “The Snows of Kilimanjaro” (2243-2259).


November 9 (F) Recitation

WEEK THIRTEEN 20th Century. Modern Drama and the Loss of Illusions

November 12 (M) VETERAN’S DAY

November 14 (W) Tennessee Williams, A Streetcar Named Desire (2337-2398).

November 16 (F) Recitation

WEEK FOURTEEN 20th Century. Modern Drama and the Loss of Illusions

November 19 (M) Arthur Miller, Death of a Salesman (2462-2526)

November 20 (W) THANKSGIVING NO CLASS
November 22 (F)  THANKSGIVING NO CLASS

WEEK FIFTEEN  20th Century. Postmodernism: Entropy

November 26 (M)  Thomas Pynchon, The Crying of Lot 49

November 28 (W)  Pynchon, Crying of Lot 49 cont’d.

November 30 (F)  Recitation

WEEK SIXTEEN

December 3 (M)  Conclusions  PICK UP FINAL TAKE-HOME EXAM

December 7 (F)  FINAL TAKE-HOME DUE (turn in to Recitation Instructor)

This syllabus is subject to change at any moment.