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SYLLABUS: AMERICAN LIT., POST CIVIL WAR

Chaminade University

Fall Evening Session, Oct 2 - Dec 15, 2000

Course: English 332, American Literature - Post Civil War

Time: Th, 1645-2055

Instructor: Christine Hansen

Tel. # 262-2281. **E-mail:** chansen@chaminade.edu. You may contact me for help at any time.

Texts: Crane, *The Red Badge of Courage*; Falkner, *As I Lay Dying*; Ellison, *The Invisible Man*; Wharton, *House of Mirth*; Twain, *Huckleberry Finn*; James, *The American*; Frost, *Poems by Robert Frost*.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: As America began to change from an agrarian economy to a more secular and industrialized nation, many social changes issues were confronted. As society became more homogenized, it could be hard for the individual to sound his moral and spiritual bearings. It is no accident that the figure of the rugged American individualist comes to the fore in the literature of these times, for it is a period in which the individual is scrambling to define a moral and spiritual identity, despite a sometimes rudderless society.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Two papers are required, each about 8 pages in length. Late papers may be marked down. There will be an essay-style, comprehensive final exam. In addition, pop quizzes may be given, to ensure that reading has been completed (these pop quizzes may not be made up) and short, in-class writing assignments may be given.

GRADING: Attendance:	10%
In-class writing and pop quizzes:	15%
8-page papers (2):	25% each (total 50%)
Final exam	25%

100-90=A 89-80=B 79-70=C 69-60=D Below 60=F

EXTRA CREDIT: Note that extra credit projects, such as oral projects or additional papers, may be completed with the prior consent of the instructor.

CLASS SCHEDULE

- OCT 5:** The American individualist. The changing faces of the American economy and society in the post Civil War years.
Read James' *The American* for discussion on Oct. 12.
- OCT 12:** Discussion of *The American*. Read *Huckleberry Finn* for Oct. 19.
- OCT 19:** Discussion of *Huckleberry Finn*. Read *The Red Badge of Courage* for Oct. 26. ****Note that the first paper is due next time****
- OCT 26:** Discussion of *The Red Badge of Courage*. Read Wharton's *The House of Mirth* for Nov. 2. **FIRST PAPER DUE!**
- NOV 2:** Discussion of *The House of Mirth*. Read the collection of Robert Frost's poetry for Nov. 9.
- NOV 9:** Discussion of Robert Frost's poetry. Read Ellison's *The Invisible Man* for Nov. 16. ****Note that the second paper is due next time****
- NOV 16:** Discussion of *The Invisible Man*. Read *As I Lay Dying* for Nov. 30. **SECOND PAPER DUE.** (Please make sure the paper is not *The Invisible Paper*)!
- NOV 23:** **Holiday**
- NOV 30:** Discussion of *As I Lay Dying*.
- DEC 7:** Review for final exam, closing comments about the period, possible handouts.
- DEC 14:** Final exam.

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) Extra-credit assignments may be completed, with the prior consent of the instructor. The projects may be either oral presentations to the class or supplemental papers.
- 2) It is the responsibility of tardy students to put their name on the roll sheet. Students who forget will not get credit for attendance.
- 3) Students who must miss class due to deployment should inform the instructor as soon as possible, in order that any make-up work may be arranged.