

ENG 332 American Literature 1865 to 1914
Fall 2001 Pearl Harbor
Tuesdays 4::45 - 8:55 p.m.
C.A. Jardin, Instructor

COURSE SYLLABUS

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|------------|-----------|---|--|
| October 2 | - Tuesday | - | Introduction
Course Requirements and Assignments |
| October 9 | - Tuesday | - | Henry James <i>Portrait of a Lady</i>
Discussion of novel
Viewing video |
| October 16 | - Tuesday | - | Mark Twain <i>Mark Twain's Letters from Hawaii</i>
Discussion of novel |
| October 23 | - Tuesday | - | Edith Wharton <i>Ethan Frome</i>
Discussion of novel
Viewing of video |
| October 30 | - Tuesday | - | Stephen Crane <i>Red Badge of Courage</i>
Discussion of novel
Viewing of video |
| November 6 | - Tuesday | - | Paper #1 due - Novels
Oral Presentations
American Poetry
Robert Frost
Discussion of poetry |

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- November 13 - Tuesday - Edgar Lee Masters *Spoon River Anthology*
Discussion of poetry
Viewing of video
- November 20 - Tuesday - Paper #2 due - Poetry
Oral Presentations
American Drama
William Vaughn Moody *The Great Divide*
Discussion of play
- November 27 - Tuesday - William Dean Howells *The Mouse Trap*
Discussion of play
- December 4 - Tuesday - Paper #3 due -- Drama
Oral Presentations
Review of semester's work
- December 11 - Tuesday - Last Night of Class
Final grades distributed

Dates to Remember:

- November 6 - Paper #1 on Novels of the Period
- November 20 - Paper #2 on Poetry of the Period
- December 4 - Paper #3 on Drama of the Period

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COURSE REQUIREMENTS

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will examine the social, cultural, economic, and legal changes in the second half of the 19th century until the start of World War I (1914) and how these transformations affected American authors and their texts. Focus will be on developing critical and analytical reading, writing and thinking skills through the reading of a variety of texts - novels, poetry and drama.

This period has been referred to as the time of 'The Emergency of American Literature' - the period of "ism's" - Realism, Naturalism, and Regionalism. The goal of the course is to develop approaches to the creative and analytical understanding of fiction and poetry, specifically through the study of representative American writers of the period and to make students aware of the wealth of American cultural heritage - both artistic and intellectual.

Active reading of the assigned material is absolutely essential to a complete understanding of class discussions and to successful completion of all graded requirements. Student involvement will be emphasized in all aspects of the learning experience.

Class attendance and promptness are essential. Unless particularly unusual circumstances can be demonstrated by the student, more than two absences will result in a failing grade; this is especially critical since we meet for only ten sessions.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Novels

Crane, Stephen. *Red Badge of Courage*

Clemens, Samuel *Mark Twain's Letters from Hawaii*

James, Henry. *A Portrait of a Lady*

Wharton Edith. *Ethan Frome*

Poetry

Frost, Robert *A Boy's Will*

Masters, Edgar Lee *Spoon River Anthology*

Drama

Gassner, John. *Best Plays of the Early American Theater*. Dover Publications

Requirements:

Students are expected to complete assigned readings before work is scheduled on the syllabus. Productive discussion depends on all students' having read the texts and being prepared to express their views and opinions.

The final grade will be made up of the following parts:

Paper #1 - Novels	25%
Paper #2 - Poetry	25%
Paper #3 - Drama	25%
Oral Presentation of Three Papers	15%
Participation, Attendance, Timeliness of Assignments	10%

Paper #1 due **November 6th** will focus on the novels written in the era

Paper #2 due **November 20th** will focus on poetry written during this period

Paper #3 due **December 4th** will focus on the drama of this period

There are three approaches/options that may be taken for the required papers:

1. You may select a writer whom we discuss in class and select another work by that writer and develop an essay discussing the themes / style / and context of that writer's work to the time period.
2. You may develop an essay comparing / contrasting the themes / styles/ and context of the writers whom we have discussed in class
3. You may develop an essay on a writer whom we have not discussed in class as the basis of an essay discussing that writers work in the context of the time / genre. You may also compare this writer to one whom we have discussed in class.

Each paper will be 7 to 10 pages in length and properly documented in the MLA format. (see www.mla.org for sample formats) The subject matter for each paper will be of the student's choice and will analyze writers and their writings/themes. Suggested topic and approaches will be discussed in class.

Each student will present a brief oral presentation (5 minutes) of his/her paper to the class

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Grade Definitions: from the Chaminade University Handbook

- A - Outstanding scholarship: an unusual degree of intellectual initiative
- B - Superior work done in a consistent and intelligent manner
- C - competent grasp of the subject matter
- D - inferior work of the lowest passing grade; bare minimum
- F - failure to grasp bare minimum of course material; failure to officially withdraw
- I - Incomplete: a portion of the course work not completed for a valid reason. A contract must be signed with the instructor setting requirements and deadline for submission of all required work
- W - Withdrawal: Official withdrawal from course
- C/NC- Credit/No Credit: general elective requirements may be taken on a pass/fail basis