

Fall 8-15-2005

ENG 3702-001: American Realism

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3702-001

Nineteenth Century American Literature English 3702 Fall 2005

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Office Hours: T/R 12-2 and by appointment

Books for the course:

Nina Baym, ed. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature, Vol. 2*

Willa Cather, *O Pioneers*

Kate Chopin, *The Awakening*

E.L. Doctorow, *Ragtime*

Theodore Dreiser, *Sister Carrie*

W.E.B. Dubois, *The Souls of Black Folk*

In this class, we'll be focusing on the literature of the second half of the nineteenth century, from just before the Civil War to roughly somewhere in the early decades of the twentieth century. Looking back, every period always seems to be full of great change and development, but that is especially true for this portion of American history and culture. As we work together through the readings for the class, my hope is that you can come to some understandings of the kind of country America became in these years, the sort of cultural concerns and hopes that shaped it, and the legacies it has left us with.

This class will function primarily as a discussion class, so class participation counts a lot, as does attendance. If you are there and talking regularly, you will do well; if not, not. There will be quizzes and such to make sure you keep working at the reading. There will be a take home midterm, a take home final, and perhaps other forms of impromptu writing. Final grades for the class will be based on your overall performance.