ENG 3702-002: American Literature 1860-1900

Stephen Swords
Eastern Illinois University

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English 3702  American Literature 1860-1900

Stephen Swords  Coleman 3020

217-367-6253  sswords@eiu.edu

Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11-2 and by appointment

Books:


Black Elk, John Neihardt, Black Elk Speaks

Willa Cather, My Antonia, Song of the Lark

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

Henry James, The Turn of the Screw

Edith Wharton, The Age of Innocence, House of Mirth

This course looks into the second half of nineteenth century American literature and culture. A period of great change, innovation, and conflict, these years set a social and artistic agenda we are still struggling with to this day. It can be argued that modern America as we know it began in the years following the Civil War, and what the writers from this period have to say not only tells us much about them and the world they saw unfolding around them, but also about us and the world we see now.

Rules and regulations:

1. Attendance counts. Miss more than a couple of classes and you are in trouble.
2. Keeping up with the reading counts. There may be quizzes and in class writing to make sure you are where you need to be.
3. Participation counts. Learning involves talking. Not everyone is comfortable speaking in class, but make the effort and it will be rewarded.
4. There will be a long take home final at the end of the semester. Final grades will be based on your overall performance in the class and the quality of your final work.