ENG 3702-002: Later 19th Century American Literature

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English 3702 Later 19th Century American Literature
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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays: 11-12:30, 2-3:30, and by appointment

Tentative order of reading:
John Neihardt, *Black Elk Speaks*
W.E.B. DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folk*
Mark Twain, *Mississippi River Writings*
Edith Wharton, *The Age of Innocence*
Willa Cather, *O Pioneers*
Edith Wharton, *The House of Mirth*
Willa Cather, *A Lost Lady*
Edgar Lee Masters, *The Spoon River Anthology*

In this class, we’ll be working with texts either written during or written about the second half of the nineteenth century, roughly between the 1850s and the turn of the century. This is a key period in American history and culture, and one hope I have for this class is that you’ll be able to see how many aspects of our own time and lives have their origins in this period of American life, in ways both good and bad. It is also the period when American literature comes into its own as a national literature, and many of its authors are in the ranks of classic writers, still widely read and admired, both in America and worldwide. Why these writers have this reputation and position is a question I hope we can make sense of somehow.

Along with the reading, work for the class will include a massive take home final, and perhaps various forms of in class writing. Grades will be determined by the quality of your performance, which includes attendance, preparation, participation, and thoughtfulness. If you want an A, act like an A student.