Syllabus

English 3702
Fall 2004

Clemens, Samuel. The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.
James, Henry. The American.
Howells, William Dean. The Rise of Silas Lapham.
Dreiser, Theodore. Sister Carrie.
Norris, Frank. McTeague.
Sinclair, Upton. The Jungle.
Cather, Willa. My Antonia.

Course Purpose: The purpose of the course is to deepen awareness of American literature written after the Civil War and before World War I; and to include consideration of the social forces which, in part, have shaped it.

Aug. 24 Course Description and Introduction.
Aug. 26 Walt Whitman's Song of Myself, parts 1-24; and Democratic Vistas (in American Tradition).
Aug. 31 Whitman's Song of Myself, parts 31-52.
Sept. 2 Samuel Clemens's Roughing It and Life on the Mississippi (in American Tradition).

Sept. 7 Clemens's Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.
Sept. 9 Clemens's Huckleberry Finn.
Sept. 14 Clemens's Huckleberry Finn.
Sept. 16 Henry James's The American.
Sept. 21 James's The American.
Sept. 23 James's The American.

Sept. 30 Howells's The Rise of Silas Lapham.

Oct. 5 Howells's Silas Lapham. Paper One due.
Oct. 7 Howells's Silas Lapham.
Oct. 12 Dreiser's Sister Carrie.
Oct. 14 Dreiser's Sister Carrie.
Oct. 19 Dreiser's Sister Carrie.
Oct. 21 Dreiser's Sister Carrie.
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(continued)

Oct. 28 Norris's McTeague.

Nov. 4 Upton Sinclair's The Jungle.

Nov. 9 Upton Sinclair's The Jungle. Paper Two due.
Nov. 11 Sinclair's The Jungle.

Nov. 16 Willa Cather's My Antonia.
Nov. 18 Cather's My Antonia.


Nov. 30 Cather's My Antonia.

Dec. 7 The Poetry of Robert Frost.
Dec. 9 The Poetry of Robert Frost.

Final Exam.
Course Requirements: The course grade will be determined on the basis of three written assignments, each of which will have equal weight. Two papers of 1250 words in length will be submitted during the semester. The papers will explain a theme or character in one of the books of the course, and should be typed double-space, in accordance with an acceptable manual of style, such as the MLA Handbook. The third written assignment will be an essay-type, final exam. Both the papers and the exam will be given a letter grade on the basis of the English Department's "Guidelines for Evaluating Themes at Eastern." The course is writing-intensive which means that you may choose to submit one of your papers for your electronic portfolio.

Students are expected to attend class. Five unexcused absences will result in a lowering of the final grade by one letter. Eight unexcused absences will result in a lowering of the final grade by two letters; eleven absences would lower the grade by three letters. Absence from an exam or lateness in submitting a paper will also result in a penalty unless the student has a valid excuse from a physician. In the case of absence from the exam, the penalty will be reduction of the grade for make-up work by two letter grades; in the case of paper lateness, the penalty will be reduction of the grade by one letter for each class day that passes before the paper is submitted.

Reading quizzes will also be given, and will be used as an index of participation in the course. There will be no make-up quizzes. Students are encouraged to take notes in class. If a student has a documented disability and wishes academic accommodation, he or she should contact the coordinator of the Office of Disability Services.

Statement concerning plagiarism: Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism—"The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's original work" (Random House Dictionary)—has the right and responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course. Respect for the work of others should encompass all formats, including electronic sources.