

E372M American Realism

Professor John M González
Office: 321 PAR
Office Hours: MWF 11-noon
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Course Time: MWF 10-11
Course location: GAR 1.126
Unique Number: 34987
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Course description: This course will trace the origins and development of realism as a literary movement and aesthetic strategy in the United States from the 1860s through the turn-of-the-century. Given the radical social changes during this period in gender, racial, and class terms, how did Realism emerge as both symptom and critique of these conditions? What were the features of this new literary aesthetic, and how did it influence the formation of realism in popular culture? Situating these texts within their social context will be a major feature of this course.

Reading List: All texts are available at the Campus Coop. They are also on one-day reserve at the Perry-Castañeda Library.

Ed, Candace Ward	<i>Great Short Stories by American Women</i>
Kate Chopin	<i>The Awakening</i>
Stephen Crane	<i>The Open Boat and Other Stories</i>
Henry James	<i>Daisy Miller</i>
Sarah Orne Jewett	<i>The Country of the Pointed Firs</i>
Jacob Riis	<i>How the Other Half Lives</i>
Jack London	<i>The Call of the Wild</i>
Paul Laurence Dunbar	<i>The Sport of the Gods</i>

Evaluation Criteria: *This is a Substantial Writing Component/ Writing Flag course with major emphasis upon the development of good essay writing skills.* The course grade will consist of: in-class free writing exercises and quizzes (10%); two peer review reports (10%); and two substantial analytical essays. The first of these essays must be significantly revised; the first draft of this 5 or 6 page essay will count for 10% of the final grade, while the revised draft will count for 30%. The second essay of 6-8 pages will count for 40%. Failure to complete all required coursework will result in a failing course grade.

Plus/minus grading will be used for the final course grade. Final grades will be determined on the basis of the following rubric. To ensure fairness, all numbers are absolute, and will not be rounded up or down at any stage. Thus a B- will be inclusive of all scores of 80.000 through 83.999. The University does not recognize the grade of A+.

A = 94-100 / A- = 90-93/ B+ = 87-89/ B = 84-86/ B- = 80-83/ C+ = 77-79/ C = 74-76/
C- = 70-73/ D+ = 67-69/ D = 64-66/ D- = 60-63/ F = 0-60

Here is a link to the University's plus/minus page, with FAQ:
www.utexas.edu/provost/planning/plus-minus/

Classroom Expectations: In addition to regular class attendance, students are expected to come prepared and to complete all in-class writing projects. We will observe civil classroom behavior at all times. Silence mobile phones during class time and refrain from other activities that might detract from the learning environment, including surfing the Internet. You are responsible for ensuring that every assignment is completed and submitted, including peer reviews.

Attendance Policy: More than four (4) absences will result in a reduction of a full letter grade in the final course grade (e.g., B to C). More than six (6) absences will result in a failing grade for the course. Except in the case of true emergencies or University cancellation of classes, no more than two (2) excused absences will be allowed.

Expectations for written work: All assignments must be typed, double-spaced with one-inch margins; this means approximately 250 words per page (12-point font). Note that the minimum page count for each assignment; 6-7 pages means at least six full pages, and NOT five and a half or three and three-quarters pages. You will be required to turn in a paper copy of all work in class by the assignment deadline. All papers must follow MLA format for citations; include both a cover page and a works cited page.

Deadline Extension & Late Submission Policy: Extensions must be requested in writing at least 24 hours before the specific deadline, and will only be granted in truly extenuating circumstances. All work must be completed in a timely fashion. Late papers will lose half a grade per day (e.g., B to B-). Saturdays and Sundays count as separate days since email submission is available.

Regrade Policy: Regrading of assignments will be considered only via written petition submitted no earlier than one week after an assignment's return and no more than two weeks afterwards. Accurate and consistent grading is very important for proper student evaluation and fair conduct of the course; regrades will always be considered carefully. For these reasons *no regrades will be accepted without a written description* of the grading error, and regrades will only be conducted *in private* by the instructor.

Academic Honesty Statement: Academic dishonesty will be handled according to University policy, including assessment of the stiffest penalty permitted to the instructor (e.g., a failing grade in the course). Additional sanctions may be imposed by the University. Cheating in any form, including plagiarism and self-plagiarism, will not be tolerated. If you are unclear about what constitutes plagiarism, ask the instructor.

Consultation: I encourage everyone to use office hours. I am also available by appointment. Writing advice is available from the Undergraduate Writing Center at the Flawn Academic Center. Their website is <http://uwc.fac.utexas.edu>.

University Disability Statement: Students with disabilities who require special accommodations need to get a letter that documents the disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Office of the Dean of Students (471-6259 or 471-

4641 (TTY) for users who are deaf or hard of hearing). This letter should be presented to the instructor in each course at the beginning of the semester and accommodations needed should be discussed at that time. Five (5) business days before an exam the student should remind the instructor of any testing accommodations that will be needed. See the following website for more information:
<http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/ssd/providing.php>

Blackboard: This course uses Blackboard, a Web-based course management system in which a password-protected site is created for each course. Blackboard can be used to distribute course materials, to communicate and collaborate online, to post grades, to submit assignments, and to take online quizzes and surveys.

You will be responsible for checking the Blackboard course site regularly for class work and announcements; email may also be used for announcements. As with all computer systems, there are occasional scheduled downtimes as well as unanticipated disruptions. Notification of these disruptions will be posted on Blackboard. Scheduled downtimes are not an excuse for late work. However, if there is an unscheduled downtime for a significant period of time, I will make an adjustment if it occurs close to the due date.

Blackboard is available at <http://courses.utexas.edu>. Support is provided by the ITS Help Desk at 475-9400 Monday through Friday 8 am to 6 pm, so plan accordingly.

Writing Center: I strongly encourage you to use the Undergraduate Writing Center, FAC 211, 471-6222: <http://uwc.utexas.edu/home>). The Undergraduate Writing Center offers free, individualized, expert help with writing for any UT undergraduate, by appointment or on a drop-in basis. Any undergraduate enrolled in a course at UT can visit the UWC for assistance with any writing project. They work with students from every department on campus, for both academic and non-academic writing. Whether you are writing a lab report, a resume, a term paper, a statement for an application, or your own poetry, UWC consultants will be happy to work with you. Their services are not just for writing with "problems." Getting feedback from an informed audience is a normal part of a successful writing project. Consultants help students develop strategies to improve their writing. The assistance they provide is intended to foster independence. Each student determines how to use the consultant's advice. The consultants are trained to help you work on your writing in ways that preserve the integrity of your work.

NB: Syllabus subject to revision.

E372M Schedule 1/20/2009

Week 1: Introduction

Jan. 20- Course Logistics
Jan. 22- TBA

Week 2: American Romanticism

Jan 25, Jan. 27, Jan. 29

Week 3: Life in the Iron Mills

Feb. 1, Feb. 3, Feb. 5

Week 4: How the Other Half Lives

Feb. 8, Feb. 10, Feb. 12

Week 5: Maggie, A Girl of the Streets

Feb. 15, Feb. 17, Feb. 19

Week 6: The Red Badge of Courage

Feb. 22, Feb. 24- The Red Badge of
Courage
Feb. 26- PCL Visit

Week 7: Country of the Pointed Firs

March 1, March 3
March 5- Writing Review

Week 8: Essay 1

March 8- Peer Review 1
March. 10- Essay 1 due
March. 12- TBA

SPRING BREAK

Week 9: Daisy Miller

March 22, March 24, March 26

Week 10:

March 29, March 31
April 2- Blanton Museum Visit

Week 11: The Awakening

April 5, April 7, April 9

Week 12: The Sport of the Gods

April 12, April 14, April 16

Week 13: The Call of the Wild

April 19, April. 21, April 23

Week 14:

April 26- Wolf Quest
April 28- Nanook of the North
April 30- Nanook of the North

Week 15: Conclusion

May 3- Peer Review 2
May 5- Conclusion and Evaluations
May 7- Essay 2 due

NB: Schedule subject to revision