

E338 / Unique 34785
Spring 2010

Professor Phillip Barrish
Office Hrs: M 1-3, W 1-2
(pbarrish@mail.utexas.edu)

American Literature 1865-Present
“Constructing and Deconstructing American Identities”

Texts (in order we will be reading them)

- Course packet available at:
- Henry James, *Daisy Miller* (1878) [Recommended edition: Oxford World Classics]
- Mark Twain, *Pudd'nhead Wilson and Those Extraordinary Twins* (1894)
[Recommended edition: Norton Critical]
- Charles Chesnutt, *The Marrow of Tradition* (1901) [**REQUIRED** edition: Bedford Cultural]
- Wister, *The Virginian* [Recommended Edition: Signet Classics]
- Ernest Hemingway, *The Short Stories* (1925-36) [Recommended edition: Scribner's]
- Nella Larsen, *Passing* (1929) [Recommend edition: Norton Critical]
- F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Love of the Last Tycoon* (1941) [Recommended edition: Scribner's]
- Alfred Hitchcock (dir), *Shadow of a Doubt* (1943) (shown in class)
- Sandra Cisneros, *Woman Hollering Creek and Other Stories* (1991) [Recommended edition: Vintage]
- Handouts, pdf files, etc. distributed throughout the term and/or available on our BlackBoard site (login at www.courses.utexas.edu).

Wed Jan 20 Introduction to Course and Requirements

Fri Jan 22 Davis, “Life in the Iron Mills,” pp. 1-19 [course packet].

Mon Jan 25 “Life in the Iron Mills,” pp. 20-34.

Wed Jan 27 James, *Daisy Miller*, Ch. 1-2.

--**Thurs, Jan 28** Discussion board post #1 due no later than 9 pm.

Fri Jan 29 *Daisy Miller*, Ch. 3-4.

Mon Feb 1 Mark Twain, *Pudd'nhead Wilson*, “Whisper to the Reader” and Ch. 1-13

Wed Feb 3 *Pudd'nhead Wilson*, Ch. 14-19.

--**Thurs, Feb 4** Discussion board post #2 due no later than 9 pm.

Fri Feb 5 *Pudd'nhead Wilson*, Ch. 20-Conclusion.

Mon Feb 8 Mark Twain, *Those Extraordinary Twins*, Preface-Final Remarks.

Wed Feb 10 Charles Chesnutt, *The Marrow of Tradition*, “Introduction” to Bedford Edition, pp. 3-18 + Ch. 1-5.

Fri Feb 12 *The Marrow of Tradition*, Ch. 6-15.

Mon Feb 15 Ida B. Wells, Excerpt from *Southern Horrors* [Bedford Edition, pp. 364-377. + Alexander Manly, “Editorial” and Rebacca Felton, “Letter to the *Atlanta Constitution*” (Bedford Edition, pp. 407-411) + *Marrow of Tradition*, Ch. 16-27.

Wed Feb 17 *The Marrow of Tradition*, Ch. 28-33 **and First essay due (2 pages).**

--Thurs, Feb 18 Discussion board post #3 due no later than 9 pm.

Fri Feb 19 *The Marrow of Tradition*, Ch. 34-37.

Mon Feb 22 Owen Wister, *The Virginian*, “To the Reader” and Ch. 1-16.

Wed Feb 24 *The Virginian*, Ch. 17-23 + “Evolution of the Cow Puncher” (BlackBoard pdf) **and Essay #1 Final Draft due.**

Fri Feb 26 *The Virginian*, Ch. 24-27 + Louis Owens, “White for a Hundred Years” in *Reading The Virginian in the New West* (BlackBoard pdf).

Mon March 1 *The Virginian*, Ch. 28-34.

--Tues March 2 Discussion board post #4 due no later than 9 pm.

Wed March 3 *The Virginian*, Ch. 35-36.

Fri March 5 Zitkala-Sa (Gertrude Bonnin), “Impressions of an Indian Childhood,” “The School Days of an Indian Girl,” “An Indian Teacher among Indians,” and “A Dream of Her Grandfather” (course packet).

Mon March 8 Ernest Hemingway, “Indian Camp” and “The Doctor and the Doctor’s Wife”

Wed March 10 Hemingway, “The End of Something,” “The Three-Day Blow,” and “Cross-Country Snow”

Fri March 12 Assignment to be Announcement

SPRING BREAK

Sunday March 21 Discussion board post #5 due no later than 9 pm.

Mon March 22 Hemingway, “The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber” and “The Snows of Kilimanjaro”

Wed March 24 Hemingway, “The Killers **and Essay #2 (3 pages) due to peer editors**

Fri March 26 Peer-Editing sheets due in class.

Mon March 29 Poems by Robert Frost

Wed March 31 Poems by Robert Frost

Fri April 2 Poems by Edna St. Vincent Millay **and Final Draft of Essay #2 Due**

Mon April 5 Nella Larsen, *Passing*

Wed April 7 *Passing*

Thurs April 8 Discussion board post #5 due no later than 9 pm.

Fri April 9 *Passing*

Mon April 12 F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Love of the Last Tycoon*

Wed April 14 *Love of the Last Tycoon*

Thurs April 15 Discussion board post #6 due no later than 9 pm.

Fri April 16 *Love of the Last Tycoon*

Mon April 19 *Shadow of a Doubt* (1943, dir. Alfred Hitchcock)

Wed April 21 *Shadow of a Doubt*

Thurs April 22 Discussion board post #7 due no later than 9 pm.

Fri April 23 *Shadow of a Doubt*

Mon April 26 *Shadow of a Doubt* and **Essay #3 (4-5 pages) due to peer editors.**

Wed April 28 Peer-Editing sheets due.

Fri April 30 Sandra Cisneros, *Woman Hollering Creek*

Mon May 3 *Woman Hollering Creek*

Tues May 4 Discussion board post #8 due no later than 9 pm.

Wed May 5 *Woman Hollering Creek*

Fri May 7 Poems by Li-Young Lee and **Final Draft of Essay #3 due.**

Class Policies and Requirements, and Grading

This is an upper-division literature class with a substantial writing component. Hence, you should expect to do a lot of reading and writing. I hope that you (and I!) will find the class enjoyable, thought-provoking, and educational.

Please make sure to:

- Complete every reading assignment before the class session during which it will be discussed. (I may “encourage” you to do this by giving unannounced reading quizzes.)
- Have a copy of the relevant text on your desk when class begins every day.
- Contribute to class discussion a minimum of two times per week (this is a guideline—I won’t be keeping strict track of it).
- Contribute to the online discussion boards as per the syllabus.
- Read your classmates’ contributions to the discussion boards.
- _____ (to be filled in by class).

Grading Percentages

Essay #1 (2 pages)

First draft, due in class on February 10: **5%**.

Final draft, due in class on February 22: **10%**.

Essay #2 (3 pages)

Final draft (after peer-editing process), due in class on April 5: **20%**.

Essay #3 (4-5 pages)

Final draft (after peer-editing process), due in class on May 3: **30%**.

[Note: All essays must be handed in at the start of class on their due dates. An essay-grading rubric will be distributed with the first essay assignment.]

Discussion board posts: 14%. You are required to post on 7 of the 8 designated days, with each of these 7 required posts worth 2%. Each post used to meet the requirement must be a minimum of four sentences long, must relate to one of the discussion questions

I've posted, and must be available before the time deadline listed. Half credit may be given for posts that are too short or that come in *after* the deadline but *prior* to one hour before class starts. Extra posting is very welcome, and may contribute to your class "engagement" grade (see below).

Overall commitment to class: 21%. This grade will be based entirely on my judgment. I will consider the following factors: (1) Your participation in class discussion, including the extent to which you thoughtfully engage with other students' comments, as well as other classroom activities; (2) your activity on the discussion boards, including points you make or questions you pose that provoke discussion by other students, as well as your engagement with other students' posts; (3) your work as a peer-editor (peer-editing sheets and a peer-editing rubric will be distributed later in the term); (4) your score on reading quizzes, if any are given.

Total: 100%

Please note: Letter grades with pluses and minuses will be used throughout the term, including for final grades. Please see course website for details on how I will translate letter grades to number grades and vice versa.

Attendance Policy: You are allowed two unexcused absences without penalty. Each additional unexcused absence will subtract 3 points from your final grade. For an absence to count as excused, you must notify me of it in advance and, in most cases, present written documentation of the medical or other serious problem responsible for your missing class. Two unexcused latenesses will count as an absence.

Academic Honesty: Any violation of academic honesty, including plagiarism, will result in a major grade reduction for the course and a report being made to Student Judiciary Services. Plagiarism does not refer merely to copying language directly from an external source (book, article, website, unpublished essay written by somebody else, etc.) without acknowledgment, but also to ideas and insights found in the work of others. Even if you put somebody else's idea or insight into your own words, you must acknowledge its source. For further information on academic honesty and how to avoid violating it, please go to http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis_plagiarism.php.

Academic Accommodations Any student with a documented disability (physical or cognitive) who requires academic accommodations should be in touch with the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259 (voice) or 471-4641 (TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing). Please do not hesitate to let me know of any accommodations you require: I will be happy to work with you.