

Dr. George S. Diamond  
Spring, 2009

Zinzendorf 37 -- 861-1391  
M&W 1:15-2:15 & T&Th 11-Noon  
and by appointment

English 341 AMERICAN REALISM

I. The object of this course is the study of the nature and development of American Realism and Naturalism from their beginnings in the post-Civil War period to their peak in the early twentieth century. With new energy and understanding in this rich and original period of American literature, writers were beginning to explore the subject matter of American themes and American life with relation to their universal significance. Fiction of the most prominent writers of the period will form the core of the course.

II. Lectures on the critical biographies of the writers studied will be alternated with class discussions in which all students will be expected to participate. Each student will also be expected to participate in a panel of explication, chosen by lot, on one of the works.

III. In addition to the graded panel, there will be a mid-term and a final examination, and a research paper, on a topic approved in advance, and appropriate in quality for an advanced undergraduate course. All written work is expected to adhere to a minimum quality of Standard English. A tabulation of the two exams, the panel presentation, the research paper, and class participation will comprise the final grade.

IV. All students will be expected to view two video presentations related to the subject of the course and/or an appropriate lecture on the subject matter.

V. Attendance policy for English 341 is based upon the statement in the current college catalog: read, date, sign, and submit the accompanying paper.

VI. All students are expected to adhere to the revised policy on academic honesty that appears in the student handbook and the college catalog.

Texts:

Henry Adams, Chapter XXV "The Dynamo and the Virgin," The Education of Henry Adams (handout)  
Chapter VI "The Virgin of Chartres," Mont-Saint-Michel and Chartres (handout)

Kate Chopin, The Awakening  
"The Literature of an Expanding Nation 1865-1912," The Harper American Literature (handout)

Stephen Crane, The Red Badge of Courage

Theodore Dreiser, Sister Carrie

Paul Laurence Dunbar, "Mr. Cornelius Johnson, Office-Seeker"

(handout)  
 Mary E. Wilkins Freeman, Pembroke (duplication at nominal cost)  
 Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wall Paper." (handout)  
 William Dean Howells, The Rise of Silas Lapham  
 Sarah Oren Jewett, The Country of the Pointed Firs  
 (duplication)  
 Henry James, "The Art of Fiction" (handout)  
 \_\_\_\_\_, The Turn of the Screw & Other Short Novels  
 Jack London, The Call of the Wild and Selected Stories  
 Frank Norris, McTeague  
 Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens), The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn  
 -----, "The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County"  
 (handout)  
 -----, "The War Prayer" (handout)  
 Edith Wharton, Ethan Frome and Other Short Fiction  
 -----, "Roman Fever" (handout)

1. M Ja 19 Course Introduction; Defining Realism and Naturalism; "Literature of an Expanding Nation."
2. W Ja 21 Realism and Naturalism; Henry James, 1843-1916; "The Art of Fiction," 1884.
3. F Ja 23 Comp period for evening lecture.
4. W Ja 26 Henry James, 1843-1916.
5. F Ja 28 Henry James, "Daisy Miller," 1878.
6. M Ja 30 Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens), 1835-1910.
7. M Fb 2 Mark Twain, "The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County" 1865; The Adventures Huckleberry Finn, 1884.
8. W Fb 4 Huckleberry Finn; "The War Prayer" 1905.
9. F Fb 6 William Dean Howells, 1837-1920.
10. M Fb 9. The Rise of Silas Lapham, 1885
11. W Fb 11 Silas Lapham.
12. F Fb 13 Charlotte Perkins Gilman, 1860-1935; "The Yellow Wall Paper."
13. M Fb 16 Mary E. Wilkins Freeman, 1852-1930;
14. W Fb 18 Pembroke, 1894.
15. F Fb 20 Pembroke.
16. M Fb 23 Stephen Crane, 1871-1920;
17. W Fb 25 The Red Badge of Courage, 1895.
18. F Fb 27 Red Badge.
19. M Mr 9 Henry James, "The Turn of the Screw," 1898.
20. W Mr 11 "The Turn of the Screw," 1898.
21. F Mr 13 **Mid-Term Examination.**
22. M Mr 16 Frank Norris, 1870-1902;

23. W Mr 18 McTeague, 1899
24. F Mr 20 McTeague,
25. M Mr 23 Kate Chopin, 1851-1904;
26. W Mr 25 The Awakening, 1899.
27. F Mr 27 The Awakening.
28. M Mr 30 Theodore Dreiser, 1871-1945;
29. W Ap 1 Sister Carrie, 1900; **Research Paper Subject Due.**
30. F Ap 3 Sister Carrie.
31. M Ap 6 Henry Adams, 1838-1918; Chapter VI "The Virgin of Chartres," Mont-Saint-Michel and Chartres, 1913.
32. W Ap 8 Chapter XXV "The Dynamo and the Virgin," The Education of Henry Adams, 1900.
33. W Ap 15 Paul Laurence Dunbar, 1872-1906; "Mr. Cornelius Johnson, Office-Seeker" 1899; Henry James, "The Beast in the Jungle," 1903.
34. F Ap 15 Sarah Oren Jewett, 1849-1909.
35. M Ap 20 The Country of Pointed Firs, 1896.
36. F Ap 22 Jack London, 1876-1916.
37. F Ap 24 The Call of the Wild, 1904.
38. M Ap 27 Edith Wharton, 1862-1937; **Research Paper Due.**
39. W Ap 29 Ethan Frome, 1911.
40. F My 1. Ethan Frome; "Roman Fever" 1934; Course Evaluation Forms.

#### **OUTCOMES FOR ENGLISH 341 AMERICAN REALISM**

At the conclusion of English 341 the student should be able to

- ! Provide a basic definition of American Realism and Naturalism;
- ! Have a fundamental knowledge of the variety and breadth of works and their authors that are identified as Realistic and/or Naturalistic;
- ! Understand how a conjunction of forces-historical, political, economic, cultural, psychological, and so forth-culminate in conditions amenable to the creation of this literature;
- ! Understand how literary artists of exceptional ability emerged during this period and were influenced by a variety

of disparate forces and each other to produce this literature;

- ! Have a fundamental knowledge of the variety and breadth of critical and philosophical works that analyze and interpret works of American Realism and Naturalism.
- ! Demonstrate competence in devising perceptive oral and written analyses of Realistic and Naturalistic literary works by careful and exact reading, and employing the tools of literary analysis and library research.