

Preliminary Web Course Description

*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: ENGL*4270	Course Title: United States Literatures	Date of Offering: FALL 2016
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Course Instructor: Pablo Ramirez	Course Format: Seminar
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Brief Course Synopsis:

The Gilded Age and the Progressive Era (1865-1917) were periods of great change: the rise of urbanization, the creation of distinct high and low cultures, the formation of modern capitalism, the revision and reaffirmation of a racial caste system destabilized by emancipation, and the creation of an overseas American empire. In this capstone seminar, students will explore how literary constructions of American masculinity addressed these changes in American life. How does American masculinity become a vehicle for social Darwinism, thereby reconciling domination and consent, as well as hierarchy and democracy? How do literary constructions of American masculinity create a vision of cooperation? How did literary texts employ the ideals of American masculinity to justify or critique the overlap between empire and democracy at a time of imperial expansion? Students will attempt to answer these questions by analyzing how authors employed American masculinity to limn the boundaries between the natural and the social, the body and the mind, and the foreign and the domestic.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Presentation	10%
Participation	25%
Rough Draft (3000 words)	25%
Revision (5000-6000 words)	40%

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)

Tarzan of the Apes, Edgar Rice Burroughs
Princess of Mars, Edgar Rice Burroughs
Soldiers of Fortune, Richard Harding Davis
South Sea Tales, Jack London
Call of the Wild, Jack London
The Virginian, Owen Wister
Riders of the Purple Sage, Zane Grey
The Life and Adventures of Nat Love, Nat Love

Other information that you wish share about the course (optional):

List the distribution requirements that this course fulfills: 18th/19th Century