

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*3960	Course Title: Literature in History	Date of Offering: F23
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Course Instructor:	Course Format: Seminar
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Brief Course Synopsis:

Course Description: The Gilded Age and the Progressive Era (1865-1920) 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. This course will explore how American writers instigated, defended, criticized and/or interpreted these changes. In particular, students will read novels and stories of adventure and exploration in order to examine how nineteenth-century American literature addressed issues of race, empire and democracy. Instead of presenting students with a monological approach to the period, the reading list exposes them to multiple perspectives (masculinist and feminist, black and white, conservative and progressive), so they can begin to grasp how American fiction helped to give shape and coherence to multiple, often competing, meanings about race, gender, capitalism, modernity and imperialism.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Presentation	10%
Participation	25%
Preliminary Draft (500-600 words)	15%
Rough Draft (1250-1500 words)	20%
Revision (3000 words)	30%

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

Ragged Dick, Horatio Alger
Tarzan of the Apes, Edgar Burroughs
Call of the Wild, Jack London
Herland, Charlotte Perkins Gilman
"The Yellow Wall-Paper," Charlotte Perkins Gilman
The Awakening, Kate Chopin

This course counts towards the following distribution requirement(s) for students who registered at the University prior to the Fall of 2018: 19th Century

Information about mode of delivery (synchronous/asynchronous/other details):

*Students who registered at the University of Guelph after Fall 2018 must fulfill the “new” major and minor requirements. Students who registered at the University of Guelph prior to Fall 2018 must fulfill the requirements of the Calendar in effect when they first enrolled unless they have filed a Schedule of Studies Change Request to change to the 2018-2019 calendar. For more information, please consult the major and minor checklists at <https://www.uoguelph.ca/arts/sets/undergraduate/english/current-student-information>.