

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: W20
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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. Please keep in mind that this is a full-credit course. You will be required to write an in-depth, lengthy research paper.

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
Call of the Wild, Jack London
South Sea Tales, Jack London
The Virginian, Owen Wister
Riders of the Purple Sage, Zane Grey

The Life and Adventures of Nat Love, Nat Love

This course counts towards the following distribution requirement(s) for students who registered at the University prior to the Fall of 2018: **18th/19th Century**

Other information about the course (optional):

*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>.