

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: W22
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Course Instructor: Pablo Ramirez	Course Format: Seminar
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Brief Course Synopsis: Reading a range of texts from the 1860s to the 1980s, students in this capstone seminar will examine how narratives of American masculinity change and evolve to meet the social and political needs of their time. How does American masculinity become a vehicle for social Darwinism, thereby reconciling domination and consent, as well as hierarchy and democracy? 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? What role does masculinity play in creating persuasive visions of national destiny? How and why do literary constructions of American masculinity become narratives of American capitalism? Students will attempt to answer these questions by analyzing how authors employed American masculinity to limn the boundaries between the natural and the economic, the foreign and the domestic, and white and non-white.

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.)

Ragged Dick, Horatio Alger

Tarzan of the Apes, Edgar Rice Burroughs

The Sun Also Rises, Ernest Hemingway

The Maltese Falcon, Dashiell Hammett

Giovanni's Room, James Baldwin

The Shining, Stephen King

American Psycho, Brett Easton Ellis

This course counts towards the following distribution requirement(s) for students who registered at the University prior to the Fall of 2018: **20th/21st Century**

Information about mode of delivery (synchronous/asynchronous/other details): This is a blended course. Instruction, for the most part, will be face-to-face. However, the writing workshops at the end of the semester will take place virtually.

*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>.