

ENGL BC 3181x
Survey of American Literature, 1871-1945
Fall 2010
Tu/Th 10:35-11:50, 202 Barnard Hall
<http://amlit1871-1945.wikispaces.columbia.edu/>



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Office hours: Wednesdays, 2:00-4:00, or by appointment. Visit
<http://kassanoff.wikischolars.columbia.edu/> to reserve a time slot.

Required texts:

William Faulkner, Light in August (Vintage)
Charlotte Perkins Gilman, The Yellow Wallpaper (Dover)
Ernest Hemingway, The Sun Also Rises (Simon and Schuster)
Pauline E. Hopkins, Of One Blood: or the Hidden Self (Washington Square Press)
Zora Neale Hurston, Their Eyes Were Watching God (Harper Perennial)
Henry James, Washington Square (Dover)
Herman Melville, Billy Budd, Sailor (Signet)
Mark Twain, Pudd'nhead Wilson (Signet)
Edith Wharton, The House of Mirth (Penguin)
Walt Whitman, Democratic Vistas (University of Iowa Press)
MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (MLA)

All texts are available at Book Culture (112th St. between Broadway and Amsterdam): please try to purchase the specified editions. Primary readings are also on reserve at the Barnard library. Required secondary are available in the course reader specified below or by via download from the course wiki.

Secondary readings and course reader

A course reader can be purchased at Village Copier on Broadway at 111th St. Secondary readings are also available for download from the course wiki. If you choose not to purchase the reader, please print the secondary readings and bring them to class.

Reading assignments

Unless otherwise indicated, reading assignments should be completed in full by the beginning of the first class on which we discuss the scheduled texts. All secondary readings can be found in the course reader or on the wiki.

Written assignments

Because this course will encourage you to take read American literature in its historical context, you are asked to write one substantial **research paper** in which you formulate an argument that synthesizes one of our literary readings and your own primary historical research. In preparation, you will write a **paper prospectus** and **annotated bibliography**, due on or before 4:00 p.m. on Monday, October 20.

A **prospectus** is a 3-4 pp. document that serves as a trial run of your research paper's argument. In the prospectus, you describe the purpose, scope and central claim of your final paper, the specific questions you hope to answer, and

the reasons that you find these questions significant. As in other critical essays, you will support your claims with specific textual evidence that you closely analyze. While the prospectus should primarily concern itself with the work of literature at the center of your project, you may also begin to sketch the ways that the items in your annotated bibliography contribute to your argument. You are welcome to write your prospectus in the first person, but keep in mind that this assignment is a formal document and not a casual, train-of-thought improvisation.

The **annotated bibliography** (2 pp.) should include a minimum of *six* primary sources published within fifteen years of your selected work of fiction. (If you are writing about Mark Twain's Pudd'nhead Wilson (1894), for example, your annotated bibliography should contain at least six works – other than the novel itself – published between 1879 and 1909.) Each annotation should contain two to three complete sentences that summarize the argument of your source and briefly describe its relevance to your own analysis. The annotated bibliography represents a snapshot of your research thus far: you are not obligated to use any or all of these sources in your final research paper. Your bibliography should be double-spaced throughout and should follow the form specified in Chapter 4 of the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. Please remember to paperclip your Writing Fellow draft to the prospectus and annotated bibliography that you submit on October 25.

Your **research paper** should be between 10-12 pp., and no more than 3700 words (excluding the bibliography). It is due by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 9. *Your paper must be placed in my box in the English Department office (Barnard 417) by that time or they will be counted as late.* There are no extensions: a half letter grade will be deducted for every day that a late assignment is past due. Please take into account deadlines for your other courses and plan ahead. Submitted research papers should be paperclipped to your Writing Fellow draft.

All written assignments should be submitted in their best form – thoroughly proofread in 12-point, double-spaced type (preferably Times Roman), with standard margins, pages numbered, and all sheets of paper stapled together (no paper clips except where specified on the syllabus). Both your prospectus and your research paper should have a title and should be carefully documented with parenthetical references and an unannotated Works Cited list that follows the form specified in the MLA Handbook. Keeping in mind that the synthesis of your primary historical research will be the most challenging part of the project, you will want to give yourself plenty of time to write, revise and rewrite. I am happy to meet with you at any time during the process. Please feel free to reserve a slot during my office hours or schedule a separate appointment.

If you would like comments on your final paper, please include a self-addressed 8 x 11 manila envelope to the final copy. If you wish to have your paper mailed to you over the winter break, affix \$2 worth of postage on the front of your manila envelope. If you would like to receive your paper via campus mail, write your mailbox number under your name and "CAMPUS MAIL" in the bottom, left-hand corner of the envelope. *Only papers submitted with self-addressed envelopes will receive comments; those without will receive a grade only.*

Examinations

There will be two 80-minute exams, the first a **midterm** on Tuesday, October 21, and the second, a **late-term**, on Thursday, December 2. Although both exams will be cumulative, the late-term will focus most heavily on post-midterm material. I will notify you by email when your graded exams are available to be picked up.

Writing Fellows

This course requires you to work with a Barnard Writing Fellow. The Barnard Writing Fellows Program, founded in 1991, is designed to help students strengthen their writing in all disciplines. The Writing Fellows believe that writing is a process; it happens in stages, in different drafts.

Often the most fruitful dialogues about your writing occur with your peers, and the Writing Fellows are just that. They are not tutors or TAs; they are rigorously vetted Barnard undergraduates who participate in a semester-long workshop in the teaching of writing and, having finished their training, staff the Barnard Writing Center and work in courses across the disciplines. It is not their role to comment on the accuracy or the content of your papers, nor to grade your work. They are not enrolled in this course. You will probably know more about the course's specific material than they do, and your papers must therefore be written clearly enough so that the non-expert can understand them.

Two dates are listed for each piece of writing assigned. You will hand in your first draft to Professor Kassanoff (Barnard 413), who will pass it on to your Writing Fellow. The Writing Fellow will read it, write comments, and conference with you on it, after which you will have a week to revise the paper and hand in a final version.

Sign up for your Writing Fellow on Professor Kassanoff's office door when you first hand in your paper. Conference times and locations will be indicated on the sign-up sheets which will then be posted on the wiki. Please make a note of your Writing Fellow's name and phone number when you sign up for your conference.

The Head Writing Fellow for this course is Jenny Vallancourt (jv2253@barnard.edu or 732-939-8274). Please contact her if you have questions about the Writing Fellows working with this course. If you have other questions about the Writing Program, please contact Ditty Vick (jvick@barnard.edu; 212-854-8941), the program's administrator, or Pam Cobrin (pcobrin@barnard.edu; 212-854-2724), Director of the Writing Program

Please note that Writing Fellows are a central part of this course. Failure to comply with Writing Fellow deadlines will adversely affect your grade (see "Grading" below).

Attendance and class participation

The real action of this course takes place in the classroom. Accordingly, you are asked to come to class prepared with your reading assignments fully and thoughtfully completed. Because knowing how to express your ideas verbally is a crucial part of the intellectual process, you are encouraged – nay, expected – to contribute your own unique perspectives to our class discussions.

Your class participation grade will be based on your contributions to our class discussions – in virtual and real time. Students who have strong attendance but neither speak in class nor participate on the wiki discussion pages (see below) can expect a grade in the C range. Those with strong attendance who participate at irregular intervals can expect a grade in the B range. Those with strong attendance who participate consistently either in class, online, or through a combination of both, will earn a grade in the A range. Class attendance and punctuality are, of course, mandatory: as Woody Allen said, 80% of success is just showing up. Chronic lateness and/or absences will adversely affect your grade.

Course wiki, editors, and workshop pages

We are using a **wiki** this semester to communicate between class meetings. The wiki, found at <http://amlit1871-1945.wikispaces.columbia.edu/>, is a collaborative website to which each member of the class contributes. The main page of the wiki will give you instructions on how to set up your own participant page.

During the semester, you will be responsible for serving as a wiki **editor** for one week. During the week leading up to the assigned text, you will work collaboratively with a group of other editor-peers who will help you assemble a **workshop page** for your selected text. In its bare form, each workshop page features the required reading assignments and a discussion section at the bottom of the page. Editors should add the following: (1.) questions and issues for consideration, (2.) passages you'd like your classmates to consider from the assigned texts, and (3.) additional materials that you've found interesting or provocative. These materials may include newspaper articles, blogs, film clips, images, passages from other texts – whatever you and your colleagues find relevant, stimulating and useful. Each class plan must include all three of the enumerated elements, although they may sometimes be woven together. For example, you might combine (1.) and (2.) in the form "Critic A argues X. On the other hand, what about Y? Consider these passages." Regardless of how you decide to go about it, your posted material should be *pointed and specific*. Please don't copy blocks of background material. When you post a quotation from one of the readings, use it to raise a specific question or issue. Similarly, when you post related material, suggest how consideration of that material might open our discussion outward. Feel free to reflect differences of opinion within the group; you need not reach an editorial consensus. During the course of the week, other class members will use the expanding workshop page to guide our reading.

Because our readings will raise multiple possibilities, each week's editors will have to choose the threads they want to emphasize and present these threads in a coherent, intelligible way. Keep in mind that, like any website, the wiki is a visual form. A grocery list of random questions will only confuse your readers. Instead, you will want to organize and group your materials under logical headings, and lead your classmates through your concerns in a systematic way.

Members of the class who are not serving as one of the week's editors should plan to post at least one comment or question to the **discussion section** of the week's workshop page. (The discussion is reached by clicking on the "Discussion" tab at the top of any page.) Editors may choose to respond to or incorporate these comments into the main text of the workshop page. **The deadline for class postings is 9:35 a.m. – an hour before class.** Class members are welcome (and indeed encouraged) to post additional comments before and after class, but their initial post should precede our discussion by at least an hour. After class, the week's editors should update the workshop-page to include issues that emerged in the class discussion.

Cell phones and laptops

I ask that you please turn your cell phones off during class. Of course, texting and other such cell phone activities are for the other 22 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours of the day. Similarly, although laptops can make notetaking easier, they can also pose a barrier (literally and figuratively) to class discussions. My preference is that you not use laptops in class. If you must, however, I ask that, in consideration of others, you sit in the back or along the sides of the classroom. Again, surfing the web, checking Facebook or IM-ing friends are pleasures to pursue outside of class.

Office hours and consultations

Although you may sign up for an office-hour time slot or schedule an appointment with me at any time during the semester and for whatever reason, I ask you to choose your research essay topic in direct consultation with me. The deadline for these paper topic conferences is Friday, October 8. To sign up for an appointment, visit my office hours wiki at <http://kassanoff.wikischolars.columbia.edu> where you can sign up for any one of the eight 15-minute time slots available each week on Wednesdays, 2:00-4:00. You can also click on the link for “ENGL BC 3181x students” where you will find additional appointment slots. To make an appointment with me outside of office hours or scheduled conference times, please e-mail me several convenient times during which we could meet, including times prior to 10:30 a.m. I will email you an appointment time. If you find that you cannot keep a pre-arranged office-hours appointment, please be considerate of others and cancel on the wiki as soon as possible.

Grading

Lively, informed class participation: 10%
 Wiki workshop page editor: 5%
 Prospectus (3-4 pp) and annotated bibliography: 15%
 Writing Fellow draft/appointment: prospectus and annotated bibliography, 2%*
 Writing Fellow draft/appointment: research paper, 2%
 Final paper: 30%
 Midterm: 18%
 Late-term: 18%

Reading schedule

I. Introduction	9/7	TU	Shopping in Oz
	9/9/	TH	<i>Rosh Hashanah (no class)</i>
II. Democratic Vistas: Democracy in the Reunited States	9/14	TU	Walt Whitman, <u>Democratic Vistas</u> (1871): 1-84. (<i>Your edition has helpful annotations from pp. 86-134</i>)
	9/16	TH	Henry James, <u>Washington Square</u> (1880)
	9/21	TU	<u>Washington Square</u> Hermann Helmholtz, “The Origin and Meaning of Geometrical Axioms” (1876)
	9/23	TH	Herman Melville, <u>Billy Budd, Sailor</u> (1891)
	9/28	TU	<u>Billy Budd, Sailor</u> Arthur Mac Donald, “Education in Relation to Abnormal Man” (1892)
	9/30	TH	Charlotte Perkins Gilman, <u>The Yellow Wallpaper</u> (1892) U.S. Congress (44 th Congress, 2 nd session, Senate), Report of the Joint Special Committee to Investigate Chinese Immigration (1877)
	10/7	TH	Mark Twain, <u>The Tragedy of Pudd’nhead Wilson and the Comedy of Those Extraordinary Twins</u> U.S. Supreme Court, <i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i> (1896),

* A completed, timely draft followed by a conference with your Writing Fellow will earn 100 points for this component of your grade. Late submissions will be marked down 10 points per day. Incomplete submissions and/or failure to have a conference with your Writing Fellow will be marked down at the instructor’s discretion.

			opinion and dissent
	10/8	FR	Deadline: Paper topic conferences
	10/11	MO	Required draft of prospectus and annotated bibliography due to my office by 4:00 p.m. Please place your draft in the folder affixed to Barnard 413 and sign up for a Writing Fellow conference.
	10/13-10/20	WE-WE	Writing Fellow conferences: prospectus and annotated bibliography
	10/12	TU	<u>Pudd'nhead Wilson</u>
	10/14	TH	Pauline E. Hopkins, <u>Of One Blood; Or, the Hidden Self</u> (1903) W.E.B. DuBois, "Of Our Spiritual Strivings" from <u>The Souls of Black Folk</u> (1903)
	10/19	TU	<u>Of One Blood</u>
	10/21	TH	MIDTERM EXAM
IV. "Native" Americans: Class, Ethnicity, Gender	10/26	TU	Edith Wharton, <u>The House of Mirth</u> (1905)
	10/28	TH	The House of Mirth Henry Adams, "The Dynamo and the Virgin" from <u>The Education of Henry Adams</u> (1918)
	10/29	FR	PROSPECTUS AND ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE BY 12:00 P.M. in my box in the English Department office (Barnard 417). <i>Please paperclip your Writing Fellow draft to your assignment.</i>
	11/2	TU	<i>Election Day (no class)</i>
	11/4	TH	Ernest Hemingway, <u>The Sun Also Rises</u> (1926) Immigration Act of 1924
	11/9	TU	<u>The Sun Also Rises</u>
V. Passing Strange	11/11	TH	William Faulkner, <u>Light in August</u> (1932), chapters 1-7
	11/12	FR	REQUIRED DRAFT OF FINAL PAPER DUE TO KASSANOFF'S OFFICE BY 4:00 P.M. Please place your draft in the plastic folder affixed to Barnard 413 and sign up for a Writing Fellow conference.
	11/15-11/19	MO-FR	WRITING FELLOW CONFERENCES: COMPLETE ROUGH DRAFT.
	11/16	TU	<u>Light in August</u> , chapters 8-12
	11/18	TH	<u>Light in August</u> , chapters 13-21 Walter White, <u>Rope and Faggot: A Biography of Judge Lynch</u> (1929)
	11/23	TU	Zora Neale Hurston, <u>Their Eyes Were Watching God</u> (1937) Bertram W. Doyle, <u>The Etiquette of Race Relations in the South</u> (1937)
	11/25	TH	<i>Thanksgiving holiday (no class)</i>
	11/30	TU	<u>Their Eyes Were Watching God</u>
	12/2	TH	LATE-TERM EXAM
	12/7	TU	No class.
	12/9	TH	**FINAL PAPER (10-12 pp.) DUE BY 4:00 P.M. in Prof. K.'s box in the English Department office (Barnard 417).** <i>Remember to include your Writing Fellow</i>

			<p><i>draft and an 8 x 10 self-addressed, stamped manila envelope. If you would like your paper mailed to you at home, please affix at least \$2 postage; otherwise, you may use your campus address. Please remember that papers submitted without self-addressed manila envelopes will receive grades, but no comments.</i></p>
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