

**Prof. Amanda Claybaugh**  
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**Philosophy 408J**  
M/W 12:00-1:00

**American Novel, 1865-1914**  
**M/W 10:40-11:55**  
**Mathematics 417**

This course focuses on the three literary modes that flourished in the postbellum era: realism, naturalism, and “local color” fiction. In doing so, it explores the following topics: rising and falling, choice and chance, consciousness and embodiment, as well as the aftermath of Civil War and Reconstruction. Authors include: John W. De Forest, George Washington Cable, Henry James, William Dean Howells, Mark Twain, Sarah Orne Jewett, Charles Chesnutt, Jack London, Theodore Dreiser, and Edith Wharton

***course readings:***

The course readings are available at Book Culture (112th Street, between Broadway and Amsterdam). If you choose to buy your books elsewhere, please make sure that you are reading the most recent Penguin edition of all the books, except *Sister Carrie*, for which you should read the most recent Norton.

Cable, *The Grandissimes* (Penguin)  
Chesnutt, *Conjure Tales* (Penguin)  
Chesnutt, *Marrow of Tradition* (Penguin)  
De Forest, *Miss Ravenel’s Conversion from Secession to Loyalty* (Penguin)  
Dreiser, *Sister Carrie* (Norton)  
Howells, *The Rise of Silas Lapham* (Penguin)  
James, *Portrait of a Lady* (Penguin)  
Jewett, *Country of the Pointed Firs* (Penguin)  
Twain, *A Connecticut Yankee at King Arthur’s Court* (Penguin)  
Wharton, *House of Mirth* (Penguin)

***course schedule:***

Wednesday 21 January      Introduction

***Civil War and Reconstruction***

Monday 26 January      *Miss Ravenel* (chapters 1-11)

Wednesday 28 January      *Miss Ravenel* (chapters 12-26)

Monday 2 February      *Miss Ravenel* (chapters 27-end)

Wednesday 4 February      *The Grandissimes* (chapters 1-18)

Monday 9 February *The Grandissimes* (chapters 19-35)

Wednesday 11 February *The Grandissimes* (chapters 36-end)

### ***Realism***

Monday 16 February *Portrait of a Lady* (chapters 1-17)

Wednesday 18 February *Portrait of a Lady* (chapters 18-27)

Monday 23 February *Portrait of a Lady* (chapters 28-43)

Wednesday 25 February *Portrait of a Lady* (chapters 44-end)

Monday 2 March midterm exam (for students who are not taking section)

Wednesday 4 March *Silas Lapham* (chapters 1-9)

Monday 9 March *Silas Lapham* (chapters 10-18)

Wednesday 11 March *Silas Lapham* (chapters 19-end)

Monday 23 March *Connecticut Yankee* (chapters 1-25)

Wednesday 25 March *Connecticut Yankee* (chapters 26-end)

### ***Local Color***

Monday 30 March *Pointed Firs* (“The Return” through “The Backward View”)

Wednesday 1 April *Conjure Tales* (“The Goophered Grapevine” through “Dave’s Neckliss”)

Monday 6 April *Marrow of Tradition* (chapter 1-15)

Wednesday 8 April *Marrow of Tradition* (chapter 16-end)

### ***Naturalism***

Monday 13 April “The Mexican”  
“Love of Life”  
will be posted on courseworks

Wednesday 15 April *Sister Carrie* (chapters 1-14)

Monday 20 April *Sister Carrie* (chapters 15-30)

Wednesday 22 April	<i>Sister Carrie</i> (chapters 31-end)
Monday 27 April	<i>House of Mirth</i> (volume 1)
Wednesday 29 April	<i>House of Mirth</i> (volume 2)
Monday 4 May	Conclusion

***course requirements:***

*for undergraduate students:* It is possible to take this course either with a discussion section or without. We'll be asking you for your preference on Monday 26 January, and we'll do our best to accommodate it, insofar as logistics allow. For those students who participate in a discussion section, the course requirements are as follows:

participation: 20% of final grade  
 final exam: 40% of final grade  
 short paper: 40% of final grade

For those students who do not participate in a discussion section, the course requirements are as follows:

mid-term exam: 20% of final grade  
 final exam: 40% of final grade  
 short paper: 40% of final grade

The exams will be open book and open note, and they will be divided into two sections: passage identifications, intended to test your mastery of the assigned readings and the lectures; and brief essays, intended to test your ability to apply the formal concepts you learned in the course. The best way to prepare for this exam is to attend all the lectures and keep up with the reading, marking your books as you go along and jotting down your responses to the questions on the "reading guides." If you have a disability that will require accommodation, please let me know as soon as you sign up for the course. All other requests for rescheduling exams must come through your class dean.

The paper will be 7-8 pages, and it should discuss works by two different authors. These papers will be due at the discretion of the teaching assistants, who will also set the penalties for lateness. More information on this will follow.

*for graduate students:* This course is not designed for graduate students, although I will make exceptions for students who are PhD candidates in the English department. These students will participate in a grad student discussion section and take the final exam. In lieu of the paper, they may do an alternate assignment, such as preparing an annotated bibliography.