English 168, Section 1 The American Novel Fall 2011

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Office: FO 221 Office Hours: MW 10:30-11:30am, TR 12N-13:00

Phone: 924-4506 Class meeting: TR 13:30-14:45am, SH 444

My web page: www.sjsu.edu/people/karen.english/ Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, etc. may be found on my faculty web page also accessible through the Quick Links>Faculty Web Page links on the SJSU home page. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor).

**Required Texts**:

*Wieland* by Charles B. Brown, Norton Critical Edition, 1st edition, 9780393932539

*Little Women* by L. M. Alcott, Broadview Press, 9781551111919

*Huck Finn* by M. Twain, Norton Critical Edition, 3rd edition, 978039366402

*The Marrow of Tradition* by C. Chesnutt, Penguin Classics, 9780140186864

*The Great Gatsby* by F.S. Fitzgerald, Scribners 9780743273565

D*elta Wedding*, by E. Welty, Harcourt, 9780156252805

*Slaughterhouse‑Five* by K. Vonnegut, Bantam/Dell, 9780140186864

*The Color Purple*, by A. Walker, HBC Trade paperback, ISBN 9780156028356.

**Course description**: Through lecture, discussion, and writing, this course explores the American novel from 1798 through the latter part of the 20th century.

**Student Learning Objectives:** In the Department of English and Comparative Literature, students will demonstrate the ability to: (1) read closely in a variety of forms, styles, structures, and modes, and articulate the value of close reading in the study of literature, creative writing, and/or rhetoric; (2) show familiarity with major literary works, genres, periods, and critical approaches to British, American and World Literature; (3) write clearly, effectively, and creatively, and adjust writing style appropriately to the content, the context, and the nature of the subject; (4) develop and carry out research projects, and locate, evaluate, organize, and incorporate information effectively; and (5) articulate the relations among culture, history, and texts.

**Course Requirements**: Students are expected to attend all classes. At her discretion, the instructor will give quizzes. **Note:** Electronic devices will not be used in the classroom except by instructor permission.

**Dropping and Adding**:Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. Information on add/drops are available at http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-298.html. Information about late drop is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/**.** Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

**Grades:** The final grade in this course will be determined as follows: Class Work (includes participation and journal assignments): 50%; Longer Analytical Papers: 25% each. All written assignments must be complete and submitted for grading for a student to receive a passing grade in this course.

Journals: These journals will be mini-essays with explicit instructions with specific due dates. Do not confuse these journal assignments with personal response essays.

Undergraduates will complete **7** journal assignments; graduate students will complete  **8** journal assignments. **Late journals are not accepted under any circumstance.** Journal assignments satisfy SLOs 2, 3, 5.

Longer Analytical Papers: These critical essays will use MLA format for parenthetical documentation and include a works cited sheet. Topics will be related to the authors and ideas discussed in the class. Both papers are literary analyses of specific works, not a creative writing project. The first paper will be on Brown, Alcott, Twain or Chesnutt; second paper will be on Fitzgerald, Welty, Vonnegut, or Walker. Late papers are accepted **only** at the instructor's discretion and may be penalized for lateness. Undergraduate students will write **two 1200** **word** papers; graduate students will write **two** **1800 word** papers. **Remember: I am always glad to read a rough draft and comment on it before the due date!** Papers satisfy SLOs 2, 3, 4, 5.

**Grading Statement**: The Department of English reaffirms its commitment to the differential grading scale as defined in the official SJSU Catalog ("The Grading System"). Grades issued must represent a full range of student performance: A = excellent; B=above average; C= average; D=below average; F=failure. In English Department courses, instructors will comment on and grade the quality of student writing as well as the quality of ideas being conveyed. All student writing should be distinguished by correct grammar and punctuation, appropriate diction and syntax, and well-organized paragraphs.

### Academic integrity: Academic Integrity Policy is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial\_affairs/Academic\_Integrity\_Policy\_S07-2.pdf. Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University’s integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The website for Student Conduct and Ethical Development is available at <http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html>

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

**Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act:** If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with the instructor as soon as possible. The Disability Resource Center is located in ADM 110. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the DRC (Disability Resource Center) to establish a record of their disability.

**SJSU Writing Center**:The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assistall students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers**.** The Writing Center website is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/>

**Class Schedule**: The following schedule of readings and written assignments is subject to change. While we may not discuss every assigned reading, students are responsible for the content of all assignments on quizzes and exams. **Always bring your textbook to class.** Reading assignments satisfy SLOs 1, 2, 5.

**Class Schedule**: The following schedule of classes may be changed at the discretion of the instructor. I expect you to read all introductions and supplementary material after you finish the novels.

8/25 Introduction to American Novel: History and Technical Terms

8/30 Reading:  *Wieland* Advertisement and Chapters 1-8

 [A Case of Spontaneous Combustion] Norton 282-86

9/6 Reading: *Wieland*, Chapters 9-15, “Ventriloquism” Norton 286-70

9/8 Reading: *Wieland*, Chapters 16-2, Brown’s Outline Norton 307-312

9/13 Reading: *Little Women*; Part One, Chapters 1-11

 Writing: **Journal 1** due in class

9/15 Reading: *Little Women,* Part One, Chapters 12-23

9/20 Reading: *Little Women*, Part Two, Chapters 1-12

9/22 Reading: *Little Women*, Part Two, Chapters 13-24

9/27 Reading: *Huck Finn,* Chapters 1-9

 Writing: **Journal 2** due in class

9/29 Reading: *Huck Finn,* Chapters 10-18

10/4 Reading: *Huck Finn*, Chapters 19-31

10/6 Reading: *Huck Finn*, Chapters 32 to conclusion

10/11 Reading: *The Marrow of Tradition* Chapters 1-9

Writing: **Journal 3** due in class

10/13 Reading: *The Marrow of Tradition*, Chapters 10-18

10/18 Reading: *The Marrow of Tradition*, Chapters 19-27

10/20 **Analytical Paper #1 DUE IN FO221**

10/25 Reading: *The Great Gatsby* Chapters 1-3

Writing: **Journal 4** due in class

10/27 *The Great Gatsby* Chapters 4-7

11/1 Reading: *The Great Gatsby* Chapters 8-9

11/3 Reading: *Delta Wedding* pages 1-68

 Writing: **Journal 5** due in class

11/8 Reading: *Delta Wedding*, 69-153

11/10 Reading: *Delta Wedding*, 154-224

11/15 Reading: *Delta Wedding*, 225-326

11/17 Reading: *Slaughterhouse-Five*, pages 1-71

Writing: **Journal 6** due in class

11/22 Reading: *Slaughterhouse-Five*, 72-135

11/24 **Thanksgiving Holiday**

11/29 Reading: *Slaughterhouse-Five*, 136-215

 Writing: **Journal 7** due in class

12/1 Reading: *The Color Purple*, 1-70

12/6 Reading: *The Color Purple*, 71-149

12/8 Reading: *The Color Purple*, 149-211

 Writing: **Journal 8** due in class

**Analytical Paper #2** due during final exam period, Wednesday, December 14, 12:15-14:30pm