

Fall 2014  
Professor Karen English  
Office: FO 221  
Phone: 408-924-4506  
Class meeting: TTh 10:30-11:45am, DMH 208  
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English 163

American Literature 1865-1910  
Email: Karen.English@sjsu.edu  
Office Hours: M-Th 12-1pm & by  
appointment

You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor).

**Course Description:** Through lecture, discussion, and writing, this course examines fiction and nonfiction prose in American Literature from 1865-1910.

**Required Textbooks:** Please buy the editions that I have ordered. You are responsible for all secondary and primary materials in these editions.

Chopin, Kate. *The Awakening* (Norton Critical Edition, 0393960570)  
Chesnutt, Charles. *The Wife of his Youth and Other Stories of the Color Line* (Perseus, 9780472061341)  
Howells, William. *A Hazard of New Fortunes* (Penguin, 0140439236)  
Keller, Helen. *The Story of My Life* (Modern Library, 0812968866)  
London, Jack. *Call of the Wild* (Broadview, 9781551118444)  
Twain, Mark. *Roughing It* (U of California P, 9780520268173)  
Zitkala-Ša. *American Indian Stories, Legends, and Other Writings* (Penguin, 0142437093)

**Student Learning Objectives (SLOs):** 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 is available at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbggen/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 essays): 70%; Midterm (Oct 14) and Final Examination (Dec 16): 15% each. All written assignments must be complete and submitted for grading for a student to receive a passing grade in this course.

**Essays:** These essays will have explicit instructions with specific due dates.

All students (undergraduates and graduate students) will complete **6** essay assignments. **Late papers are not accepted under any circumstance.** Paper assignments satisfy **SLOs 2, 3, 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.

**English Department Grading Policies:** 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. Grades issued will represent a full range of student performance and will adhere to the following SJSU academic standards of assessment:

The "A" essay will be well organized and well developed, demonstrating a clear understanding and fulfillment of the assignment. It will show the student's ability to use language effectively and construct sentences distinguished by syntactic complexity and variety. Such essays will be essentially free of grammatical, mechanical, and usage errors.

The "B" essay will demonstrate competence in the same categories as the "A" essay. The chief difference is that the "B" essay will show some specific slight weaknesses in one of those categories. It may slight one of the assigned tasks, show less facility of expression, or contain some minor grammatical, mechanical, or usage flaws.

The "C" essay will complete all tasks set by the assignment, but show weakness in fundamentals (usually development), with barely enough specific information to illustrate the experience or support generalizations. The sentence construction may be less mature, and the use of language less effective and correct than the "B" essay.

The "D" essay will neglect one of the assigned tasks and be noticeably superficial in its treatment of the assignment--that is, too simplistic or short. The essay may reveal some problems in development, with insufficient specific information to illustrate the experience or

support generalizations. It will contain grammatical, mechanical, and usage errors that render some sentences incomprehensible.

The "F" essay will demonstrate a striking underdevelopment of ideas and insufficient or unfocused organization. It will contain serious grammatical, mechanical, and usage errors that render some sentences incomprehensible.

**Estimation of Per-Unit Student Workload:** Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

**Adding and Dropping Classes:** Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's Catalog Policies section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>.

Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic calendar web page located at [http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic\\_calendars/index.html](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/index.html). The Late Drop Policy is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub: <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

**Recording policies:** Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that students obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for private, study purposes only. Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. Students may not publicly share or upload instructor-generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.

**Student Technology Resources:** Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

**SJSU Academic Integrity Policy:** A student's commitment to learning, as evidenced by his or her

enrollment at San José State University, and the University's Academic Integrity Policy require all students to be honest in their academic course work. Faculty are required to report all infractions to the office of Judicial Affairs. The policy on academic integrity can be found at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S04-12.pdf>. The SJSU rules against plagiarism are set forth in the SJSU Catalog, which defines plagiarism as the act of representing the work of another as one's own (without giving appropriate credit) regardless of how that work was obtained, and submitting it to fulfill academic requirements. Plagiarism at SJSU includes, but is not limited to: (1) the act of incorporating the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof, or the specific substance of another's work, without giving appropriate credit, and representing the product as one's own work. It is the role and obligation of each student to know the rules that preserve academic integrity and abide by them at all times. This includes learning and following the particular rules associated with specific classes, exams, and/or course assignments. Ignorance of these rules is not a defense to the charge of violating the Academic Integrity Policy.

**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 me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec/> to establish a record of their disability.



### **SJSU Writing Center**

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter): <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook.

### **SJSU Peer Connections**

The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) and the Peer Mentor Program have merged to become Peer Connections. Peer Connections is the new campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring. Our staff is here to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. Students are encouraged to take advantage of our services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment

basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10<sup>th</sup> and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit [Peer Connections website](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.

**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. I expect you to read all the introductions and supplementary material after you finish the primary source reading. **Always bring your textbook to class.** Reading assignments satisfy **SLOs 1, 2, 5.**

- 8/26 Introduction; Keller, essays from *The World I Live in* and *Out of the Dark* 317-327;  
[Helen Keller Foundation Home Page](#)
- 8/28 Twain, *Roughing It*, Chapters 1-16; don't forget to look at the notes and maps, as well!
- 9/2 Twain, Chapters, 17-37; the notes!
- 9/4 Twain, Chapters 38-50; the notes!
- 9/9 Twain, Chapters 51-63; the notes!
- 9/11 Twain, Chapters 64-79; Appendices A, B, C; the notes!  
**Paper #1 on Twain due in class**
- 9/16 Chopin, *The Awakening*, Chapters 1-13 and pages 113-122
- 9/18 Chopin, Chapters 14-27 and pages 122-136
- 9/23 Chopin, Chapters 28-39 and pages 137-178
- 9/25 Presentations on Critical Essays and *The Awakening*  
**Paper #2 on Chopin due in class**
- 9/30 Keller, Chapters 1-8, letters 117-124
- 10/2 Keller, Chapters 9-18; John Macy and Annie Sullivan, *A Supplemental Account* 199-213

10/7 Keller, Chapters 19-23; Sullivan, Letters 218-231

10/9 Sullivan, Letters 232-253  
**Paper #3 on Keller due in class**

10/14 **Midterm Examination; Bring Blue/green book and textbooks**

10/16 Chesnutt, "The Wife of His Youth" 1-24; "Her Virginia Mammy" 25-59

10/21 Chesnutt, "The Sheriff's Children" 60-93; "A Matter of Principle" 94-131

10/23 Chesnutt, "Cicely's Dream" 132-167; "The Passing of Grandison" 168-202

10/28 Chesnutt, "The Bouquet" 269-290; "The Web of Circumstance" 291-323  
**Paper #4 on Chesnutt due in class**

10/30 Zitkala-Ša, "American Indian Stories" 68-160

11/4 Zitkala-Ša, "Old Indian Legends" 1-63

11/6 Zitkala-Ša, "Poetry, Pamphlets, Essays, and Speeches" 222-261

**11/11 Veteran's Day (University Holiday)**

11/13 Howells, *A Hazard of New Fortunes*, Part I  
**Essay #5 on Zitkala-Ša due in class**

11/18 Howells, Part Two

11/20 Howells, Part Three

11/25 Howells, Part Four

**11/27 Thanksgiving (University Holiday)**

12/2 Howells, Part Five

12/4 London, *The Call of the Wild*, Chapters 1-4 (pp. 50-91), Appendices A-B (133-142);  
Look at maps 199-201  
**Journal #6 on Howells due in class**

12/9 London, *The Call of the Wild* Chapters 5-12 (pp. 91-131), Appendices C-E (143-160)

**12/16 Final Examination 9:45am-12:15pm**