

ENGL 3352 NINETEENTH CENTURY AMERICAN FICTION

Instructor Dr. Elizabeth Kessler

Time 10:00-11:30 TTh

From the dark Romanticism of Poe to the early Modernism of Henry James, Nineteenth Century American Fiction will cover the remnants of Puritanism in Hawthorne, the beauty of nature in Cooper, the horrors of slavery in Douglass and Jacobs, the gradual reconstruction of womanhood in Freeman, Jewett, Miller, Chopin, and other topics of social, historical, and cultural interest. We will examine motivation, responsibility, traditions, as well as the status of slaves, the changing definitions of women, and the early rise of the Modern Era and the Industrial Revolution. With literature written in a century of change, we will be spectators, commentators, and interpreters of the movements we see reflected in the work and times.

Students will be expected to attend class regularly and come prepared to discuss the reading assignments of the day. Students will have reading responses to write, one oral presentation to give, a research paper to write, an annotated bibliography to create over one of the short story writers or one of the novels/novellas assigned, and a final exam to take in class.

Required Reading

Lauter, Paul, ed., et al. *The Heath Anthology of American Literature*, Volumes B and C. 7th edition.

Foster, Hannah Webster. *The Coquette* (Oxford University Press)

Jacobs, Harriet. *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*.(Oxford University Press)

Cooper, James Fenimore. *The Pioneers*.

Articles posted to Blackboard

Grade Weight

Reading Responses 20%

Oral Presentation 20 points of your final exam

Critical Research Paper 35%

Annotated Bibliography 25%

Final Exam 20%