

McCann
HUMS 639
Fall '11
office hours: T 5:00-6:00 and by appt.

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THE GREAT AMERICAN NOVEL

- A 10-15 page research paper on the work of any novelist who might conceivably have been covered by this course (50% of final grade); *or*, a 10-15 pp synthetic, critical essay discussing any 2-3 writers discussed in this course;
- Three 2-3 page response papers (40% of final grade); sign up for available dates on wiki on Course Moodle
- Class participation (10% of final grade)

texts

James Fenimore Cooper, The Last of the Mohicans
Nathaniel Hawthorne, The Scarlet Letter
Herman Melville, Moby-Dick--or The Whale
Harriet Beecher Stowe, Uncle Tom's Cabin
Mark Twain, Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
Henry James, The Portrait of a Lady
Edith Wharton, The House of Mirth
Willa Cather, My Antonia
Richard Wright, Native Son
Ralph Ellison, Invisible Man
Supplemental readings on Moodle (m)

schedule

- 9/15 Cooper, The Last of the Mohicans
- 9/22 Hawthorne, The Scarlet Letter
Preface to The House of the Seven Gables (m)
- 9/29 Melville, Moby-Dick,
“Hawthorne and his Mosses” (m)
letters to Hawthorne (m)

10/6 Moby-Dick

10/13 Stowe, Uncle Tom's Cabin

10/20 Twain, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
"Fenimore Cooper's Literary Offenses" (m)
W. D. Howells, "Novel-Reading and Novel Writing" (m)

10/27 *Fall break*

11/3 James, The Portrait of a Lady
"The Art of Fiction" (m)

11/10 Wharton, The House of Mirth
Introduction (m)
"The Great American Novel" (m)

11/17 Cather, My Antonia
"The Novel Demeublé" (m)

12/1 Wright, Native Son
preface

12/8 Ellison, Invisible Man
"Twentieth-Century Fiction and the Black Mask of Humanity" (m)

12/15 *Final Papers Due*