

McCann  
HUMS 639W  
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 (40% of final grade);
- Three 2-3 page response papers (30% of final grade); sign up for available dates on wiki on Course Moodle;
- A survey of the critical literature on the subject of your research paper (20% of final grade)
- Class participation (10% of final grade)
- Two office meetings with instructor

#### **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***