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