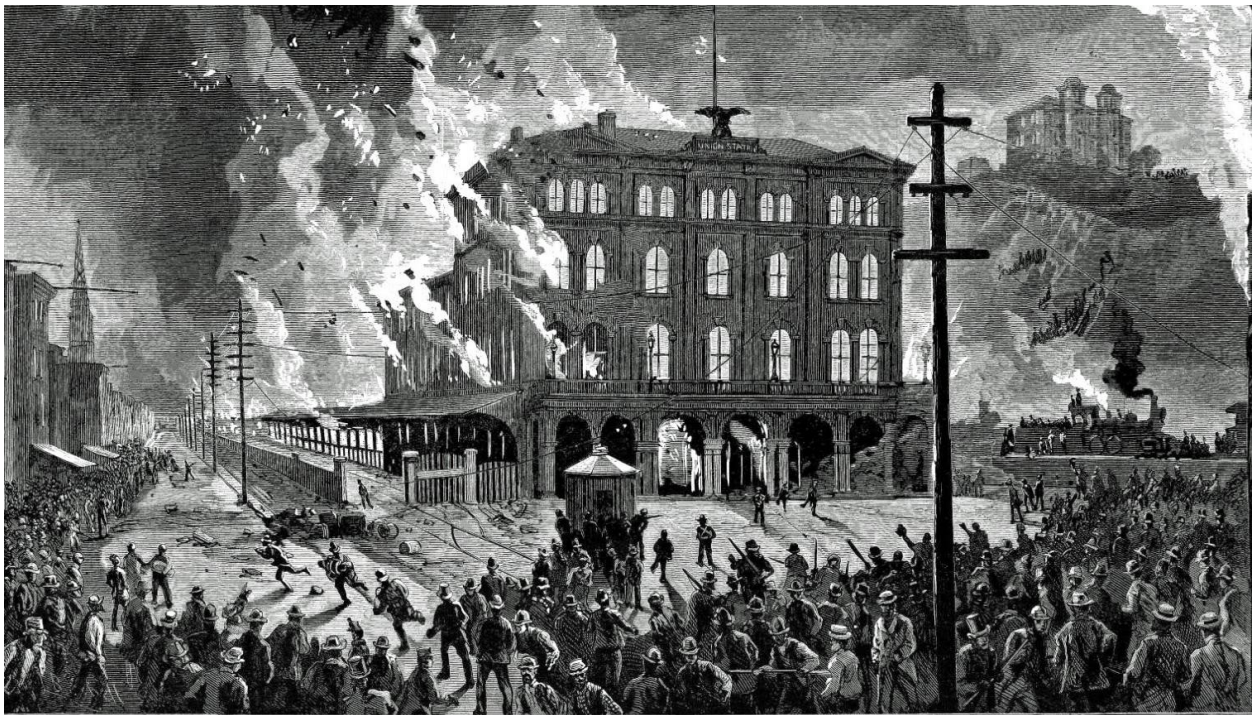


Nineteenth Century American
Literature and Culture
American Studies, 050:227:01

M/W, 2:50 - 4:10PM, Freylinghausen A6



THE GREAT STRIKE—DESTRUCTION OF THE UNION DÉPÔT AND HOTEL AT PITTSBURGH.—DRAWN BY FRED. B. SCHALL.—[SEE PAGE 626.]

“The Great Strike,” Harper’s Magazine, August 11, 1877

Prof. Andy Urban
aturban@rci.rutgers.edu

Office Hours:
11AM to 1PM Mondays, or by appointment

*Office hours will be held in the Starbucks
that is part of the Rutgers bookstore

Course Description

This class explores nineteenth-century American literature and culture through a range of primary and secondary sources.

Topics covered include the struggle for cultural authority in the early republic; the emergence of middle-class culture, domesticity, and sentimentalism; the search for a distinct American literature and language; race and the problem of slavery; the rise of industrialism; literary forms and artistic movements; the development of commercial entertainment for the masses; and, the emergence of a cultural hierarchy. Nineteenth-century US history will also be explored in detail, for social, economic, and political contexts.

American Studies Department Learning Goals Met by this Course

Students will learn to:

- Critically analyze interdisciplinary primary and secondary sources relating to the nineteenth century United States.
- Interpret primary and secondary sources in their broader social, economic, and political contexts
- Gain insights into how nineteenth-century American cultural forms departed from earlier periods and anticipated subsequent eras
- Write well; speak articulately; and think critically, analytically, and creatively.

Required Readings

- Tyler Anbinder, *Five Points: The 19th Century New York City Neighborhood that Invented Tap Dance, Stole Elections, and Became the World's Most Notorious Slum*, Reissued Edition (New York: Free Press, 2010), ISBN#: 9781439141557.
- Drew Gilpin Faust, *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War*, Reprint Edition (New York: Vintage, 2009), ISBN#: 9780375703836

In addition to the books listed above, there will also be chapters, articles, and other readings that you will be required to read and bring to class, either as print-outs or in a digital format.

Readings correspond to the day they will be discussed and need to be completed before class.

Assignment and Grading Overview

Additional information on the assignments will be provided in separate handouts.

Primary Source Blog - 40% (four entries, each worth 10% of total class grade)

Midterm Exam - 20%

Final exam - 25%

Attendance / Participation - 15%

Grading Scale:

92-100=**A**; 87-91=**B+**; 81-86=**B**; 77-80=**C+**; 70-76=**C**; 60-69=**D**; 0-59=**F**

Note: there are no minus grades at Rutgers.

Class Policies

Please make sure that you are receiving and checking SAKAI announcements via email.

I regularly use the site to update class information, assignments, etc. **You are responsible for keeping up-to-date with class information and making sure that you are connected.**

Attendance in the seminar is mandatory.

This is a seminar, and the expectation is that you will both attend all the classes, and regularly participate.

If you have to miss class due to sickness, an emergency, or another excused reason, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

Unexcused late assignments will receive a deduction.

Please do not use smartphones. If I see you using a smartphone I reserve the right to call you on it before the class, and, at the very least, I will mark you for a deduction in your participation grade.

Special Accommodation Requests:

I want to ensure that all special accommodation requests are met, following Rutgers guidelines.

All special accommodation requests must be brought to my attention during the first two weeks of class. Full disability policies and procedures are available for review at: <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/>.

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations must follow the procedures outlined at <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/request.html>

Academic Integrity Policy:

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>

Violations include: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, and facilitating violations of academic integrity.

Honor Pledge:

I pledge on my honor that I will adhere to all aspects of the Rutgers Academic Integrity Policy

⇒ By accepting this syllabus and enrolling in this course, you assume responsibility for knowing the above policies and the possible penalties – including suspension and expulsion – should you violate the Honor Pledge.

Take an interactive tutorial on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity:

<http://sccweb.scc-net.rutgers.edu/douglass/sal/plagiarism/Intro.html>

Class Schedule and Readings

Wednesday, Sept. 6

Introducing the Nineteenth Century

Unit One - Early American Culture, Ideology, and Spirituality

Monday, Sept. 11

- Jill Lepore, "A Nue Merrykin Dikshunary," in *The Story of America: Essays on Origins* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2012), 111-129
- Andrew Cockburn, "Washington is Burning," *Harper's Magazine*, Sept. 2014

Wednesday, Sept. 13

- Excerpts from Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America, Volume 1* (1831)

Monday, Sept. 18

- Margaret Hofer, "Cross-Stitched History," *Common-Place* 4, no. 4 (July 2004), <http://common-place.org/book/cross-stitched-history-artistry-and-ambition-in-christina-arculariuss-tree-of-knowledge-sampler/> (read online)

Wednesday, Sept. 20

- Mary Cathryn Cain, "Race, Republicanism, and Domestic Service in the Antebellum United States," *Left History* 12.2 (2007): 64-83
- Linda K. Kerber, Nancy F. Cott, Robert Gross, Lynn Hunt, Carroll Smith-Rosenberg and Christine M. Stansell, "Beyond Roles, Beyond Spheres: Thinking about Gender in the Early Republic," *The William and Mary Quarterly* 46, no. 3 (1989): 565-585

Monday, Sept. 25.

- Charles Finney, "What a Revival of a Religion Is" (1835)
- Jon Butler, "Jack-in-the-Box Faith: The Religion Problem in Modern American History," *Journal of American History* 90, no. 4 (2004): 1357-1378

Wednesday, Sept. 27

- American Antiquarian Society and New York Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, "Revisiting Rebellion: Nat Turner in the American Imagination," online exhibition, access here: <http://americanantiquarian.org/NatTurner/>

Monday, Oct. 2

- Eric Lott, "Blackface and Blackness: The Minstrel Show in American Culture," from *Love and Theft: Blackface Minstrelsy and the American Working Class* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1993)
- Walter Johnson, "Turning People into Products," in *Soul by Soul: Life Inside the Antebellum Slave Market* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2001)

Wednesday, Oct. 4

- Amy S. Greenberg, "A Gray-Eyed Man: Character, Appearance, and Filibustering," *Journal of the Early Republic* 20 (Winter 2001): 673-99.

Unit Two - Immigration and Urbanization (and Transcendentalism)

Monday, Oct. 9

- Anbinder, *Five Points*, introduction, chapters 1 & 2: 1-66

Wednesday, Oct. 11

- Anbinder, *Five Points*, chapters 3 & 4: 67-140

Monday, Oct. 16

- Anbinder, *Five Points*, chapters 6 & 7: 172-234

Wednesday, Oct. 18

- Anbinder, *Five Points*, chapters 11 - end: 362-441.

Monday, Oct. 23

In-Class Midterm Exam

Wednesday, Oct. 25

- Henry David Thoreau, excerpts from *Walden* (1854)
- Richard B. Primack, preface, chapters 1, 3, and 4, from *Walden Warming: Climate Change Comes to Thoreau's Woods* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2014).

****** Friday, Oct. 27 & Sat., Oct. 28 ******

Class hiking and camping trip

Unit Three - Civil War

Monday, Oct. 30

- Faust, *This Republic of Suffering*, preface, chs. 1 & 2,

Wednesday, Nov. 1

- Faust, *This Republic of Suffering*, chs. 3 & 5

Monday, Nov. 6

- Faust, *This Republic of Suffering*, chs. 6 & 8, epilogue

Wednesday, Nov. 8

Class trip to Elmwood Cemetery

**Unit Four: Westward Expansion; Labor Strife; "Jim Crow" Politics; U.S. Imperialism;
The Women's Movement**

Monday, Nov. 13

- Frederick Jackson Turner, excerpts from "The Significance of the Frontier in American History," (1893)
- William Cronon, "Revisiting the Vanishing Frontier: The Legacy of Frederick Jackson Turner," *Western Historical Quarterly* 18, no. 2 (April 1987): 157-76.
- David Grua, "Race War and Wounded Knee," in *Surviving Wounded Knee: The Lakotas and the Politics of Memory* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016), 11-29.

Wednesday, Nov. 15

- Erika Lee, "The Chinese Exclusion Example: Race, Immigration, and American Gatekeeping, 1882-1924," *Journal of American Ethnic History* 21, no. 3 (Spring 2002): 36-62.
- Hsuan Hsu, "Sitting in Darkness: Mark Twain and America's Asia," *American Literary History* 25, no. 1 (Spring 2013): 69-84.

Monday, Nov. 20

- "Appeal of the Chinese Equal Rights League" (1892)
- People's Party, Omaha Platform (1892)
- Jane Addams, "A Modern Lear," *Survey* 29, no. 5 (November 2, 1912): 131-37.
- William Jennings Bryan, "Cross of Gold" Speech (1896)
- David Fernández-Barrial, "The Haymarket Handbills: Paper as Dynamite," May 31, 2016, http://blogs.loc.gov/inside_adams/2016/05/the-haymarket-handbills-paper-as-dynamite/;

Monday, Nov. 27

- Timothy Tyson and David Cecelski, "Introduction," and Glenda E. Gilmore, "Murder, Memory, and the Flight of the Incubus," in *Democracy Betrayed: The Wilmington Race Riot of 1898 and Its Legacy*, eds. Cecelski and Tyson (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998), 3-13; 73-94.

Wednesday, Nov. 29

- Devon Carbado, "Racial Naturalization," *American Quarterly* 57, no. 3 (September 2005): 633-658

Monday, Dec. 4

No reading. In-class activity on nineteenth-century art.

Wednesday, Dec. 6

- Kristin Hoganson, "As Badly off as the Filipinos': U.S. Woman Suffragists and Turn-of-the-Century U.S. Imperialism," *Journal of Women's History* 13 (2001): 9-33.
- "American Soldiers in the Philippines Write Home about the War," excerpted by History Matters (<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/58>)

Monday, Dec. 11

- Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wall-Paper," *The New England Magazine*, January 1892, 647-656.

Wednesday, Dec. 13

No reading. Exam review session.

****** FINAL EXAM, FRIDAY, DEC. 22, NOON - 3PM ******