

San José State University
English and Comparative Literature
ENGL 168, The American Novel, Section 1, Fall 2014

Instructor: Robert Cullen
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Office Hours: Mondays at Noon and by appointment
Class Days/Time: MW 10:30 - 11:45
Classroom: SH 238
Prerequisite: Upper Division Standing

Course Format: Lecture/Discussion

Catalog Description

Selected American novels from the Revolution to the present.

Student Learning Objectives

Below are the department's five learning objectives and, in italics, selected ways in which this course will help students meet the objectives. Students will demonstrate the ability to

- 1) read closely in a variety of forms, styles, structures, and modes, and articulate the value of close reading in the study of literature, creative writing, or rhetoric. *The course focuses on the novel genre. Class discussion and papers will teach close reading. Themes, styles, structures, and aesthetics of novels on the reading list are immensely varied.*
- 2) show familiarity with major literary works, genres, periods, and critical approaches to British, American, and World Literature. *This course is devoted to American literature. It will include iconic works and introduce students to some newer voices as well. Lectures and student papers will draw on literary criticism. The course includes novels from the realist, modernism, postmodern, and contemporary eras.*
- 3) write clearly, effectively, and creatively, and adjust writing style appropriately to the content, the context, and nature of the subject. *The course requires two critical papers and an essay final exam.*
- 4) develop and carry out research projects, and locate, evaluate, organize, and incorporate information effectively. *Research is optional for the first paper and mandatory for the second; papers will be evaluated for the scope, relevance, and usefulness of their research.*
- 5) articulate the relations among culture, history, and texts. *Relations among culture, history, and texts will be our daily concern in reading, discussion, and writing.*

Required Texts/Readings

Any edition of the novels is OK. For *Lolita*, I recommend you *not* use the Annotated Version unless you have read the novel before—it gives away far too many secrets.

Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1885)
Edith Wharton, *The Age of Innocence* (1920)
Ernest Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises* (1926)

William Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury* (1929)

Vladimir Nabokov, *Lolita* (1955)

Philip Roth, *The Ghost Writer* (1979)

Tony Morrison, *Song of Solomon* (1977)

Colson Whitehead, *Sag Harbor* (2009)

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU students should expect to spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

PAPERS

Two papers are required. I will hand out specific assignments later, but the first paper (1000 words minimum) will call for a close reading of a narrowly defined portion of a text. The second (2000 words minimum) will call for a broader analysis of one or more of the works and will require modest research. Both papers must conform to current Modern Language Association style. Please, no faxed or emailed papers. In addition to giving me a hard copy of each paper, you must submit it within 48 hours of the due date to TurnItIn.com. Please set up an account right away if you have not done so already. I will provide a course number and password as the first due date approaches.

Except in extraordinary circumstances, late papers will be penalized as follows: papers turned in one day to one week late will be marked down one full letter grade (e.g. B to C); beyond one week papers will not be accepted. Any paper not turned in directly to me must be time-stamped by the English Department staff. (Do not put a paper under my door, in my mailbox, etc.) NO INCOMPLETES except in true emergencies.

PARTICIPATION AND QUIZZES

Participation and quizzes figure substantially into your final grade. Quizzes are designed primarily to encourage you keep you on schedule; they should not be difficult if you have read carefully. Quizzes may not be made up.

Grading

Paper #1 (Close reading/analysis)	25 %
Paper #2	40 %
Final Exam	20%
Participation & Quizzes	15 %

University Policies

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the [Academic Calendars webpage](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/) at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The [Late Drop Policy](#) is available at

<http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf), <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

- “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”
 - It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor's process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.
 - In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

Academic integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. [Presidential Directive 97-03](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See [University Policy S14-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf>.

English 168 / The American Novel, Fall 2014, Course Schedule

The schedule is subject to change with fair notice. Please check email regularly.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/25	Introductions and Enrollment.
1	8/27	The Novel in America before Mark Twain.
2	9/1	LABOR DAY HOLIDAY
2	9/3	<i>Huckleberry Finn</i> , Chapters 1-18
3	9/8	<i>Huckleberry Finn</i> , Chapters 19-33
3	9/10	<i>Huckleberry Finn</i> (Finish.)
4	9/15	<i>The Age of Innocence</i> , Book One
4	9/17	<i>The Age of Innocence</i> , Book One
5	9/22	<i>The Age of Innocence</i> , Book Two
5	9/24	<i>The Age of Innocence</i> , Book Two
6	9/29	<i>The Sun Also Rises</i> , Book One
6	10/1	<i>The Sun Also Rises</i> , Book Two (the longest section)
7	10/6	<i>The Sun Also Rises</i> , Book Three
7	10/8	DRAFT OF FIRST PAPER DUE for peer review. Bring 3 copies.
8	10/13	FIRST PAPER DUE at beginning of class. Also this very difficult reading: <i>The Sound and the Fury</i> , “April Seventh, 1928” (Benjy section) You are supposed to be confused!
8	10/15	<i>The Sound and the Fury</i> , “June Second, 1910” (Quentin section)
9	10/20	<i>The Sound and the Fury</i> (Finish.)
9	10/22	<i>The Sound and the Fury</i>
10	10/27	<i>Lolita</i> , Foreword and Chapters 1-20
10	10/29	<i>Lolita</i> , Finish Part One (Chapters 21-33)
11	11/3	<i>Lolita</i> (Finish.)
11	11/5	<i>Lolita</i>
12	11/10	<i>The Ghost Writer</i> , first half (roughly) through Nathan's talk at bus stop with his dad.
12	11/12	<i>The Ghost Writer</i> , Finish.
13	11/17	<i>Song of Solomon</i> , chapters 1-4
13	11/19	<i>Song of Solomon</i> , chapters 5-9
14	11/24	<i>Song of Solomon</i> (Finish.)
14	11/26	Workshop on Paper #2. Bring 3 copies of your draft to class.
15	12/1	<i>Sag Harbor</i> , Chapters 1-3
15	12/3	<i>Sag Harbor</i> , Chapters 4-5
16	12/8	<i>Sag Harbor</i> (Finish.)
16	12/10	Last Class. SECOND PAPER DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS.
Final Exam	MON 12/15	SH 238, 9:45 am to Noon