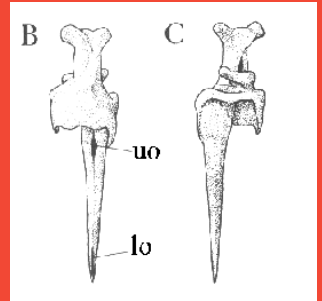
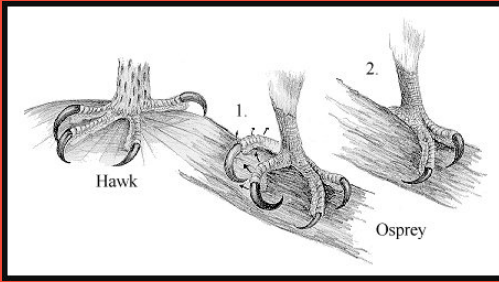


Missouri Western State College
Division of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Department of English

ENG210-06 Approaches to Literature:
Read in Tooth and Claw

SSC210, 1:00-1:50, MWF
Fall 2003



"Tho' Nature, red in tooth and claw/ With ravine, shriek'd against his creed--"
Tennyson, *In Memoriam A. H. H.*

Instructor: Dr. Roberts
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Office Hours: 8:00-9:00 MWF, 2:00-3:00 MW and by appointment

Course Description and Objectives:

We'll study short stories, novels, poems, and drama by a wide range of authors and focus primarily on the ways in which authors responded to the often frightening social changes taking place during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

As part of MWSC's General Studies program, this course is designed to fulfill the Category IV General Studies Requirement. Students in ENG 210 will learn to recognize the major characteristics of literary genres, discuss literature orally and in writing with assurance, appreciate literary works which are encountered, and understand the different ways in which a literary theme may be treated in literature. All English 210 courses provide practice in reading poetry, prose fiction, and drama. This course also meets the state level competencies for the Skills Area - Valuing and the Knowledge Area - Humanities and Fine Arts. For more information on the institutional and state goals and competencies, see the English Department website for general studies courses at [General Studies English Courses](#). Click on English 210.

Required Materials

- Nagel, James and Tom Quirk, eds. *The Portable American Realism Reader*. New York: 1997.
- Bierce, Ambrose. *Civil War Stories*. New York: Dover, 1994.
- Doyle, Arthur Conan. *Six Great Sherlock Holmes Stories*. New York: Dover, 1992.
- Hardy, Thomas. *Hardy's Selected Poems*. New York: Dover, 1995.
- London, Jack. *Five Great Short Stories*. New York: Dover, 1992.
- Twain, Mark. *The Mysterious Stranger and Other Stories*. New York: Dover, 1992.
- Wells, H. G. *The Island of Doctor Moreau*. New York: Dover, 1996.
- An up-to-date unabridged college dictionary.
- A college handbook (guide to style, grammar and usage).
- At least two computer disks.
- Stamina and good humor.

Recommended:

- Holman, C. Hugh and William Harmon. *A Handbook to Literature*. 9th ed. New York: Macmillan, 2003.

Attendance:

Regular attendance is an essential part of the student's educational experience and a requirement for an adequate evaluation of student academic progress. For this and other reasons, attendance is mandatory. While certain absences may be necessary or unavoidable in the case of genuine illness, emergency, or when acting as a representative of MWSC, excessive absences will result in failure of the course. If you miss more than three classes during the semester, your final grade will be seriously affected. Chronic lateness and/or leaving early will count toward absences. You are responsible for material covered or assignments given which you missed because of absence, so ask another student to inform you of what happened while you were gone. If I should be unable to meet class, you will be notified by a secretary, fellow instructor, or a note on the classroom door.

Preparation and Participation:

You are required to make significant contributions to class in the form of preparation and participation. Preparation includes completing the readings and daily assignments, as well as bringing your assignments, textbook, and other materials with you on the appropriate days. If you come unprepared, you will receive a zero for any work due that day.

Participation includes the help you give to fellow writers and the contributions you make to class discussion. Active and insightful contributions to class discussion are therefore not "extra credit." Like the written assignments, your **tactful and substantive comments are part of the minimal requirements** for successful completion of the course. If you are a naturally talkative person, you may have to restrain yourself so that everyone has the opportunity to contribute. Conversely, if you are a naturally quiet person, force yourself to be more vocal; do not assume that if I do not call on you that you need not participate, as it is your responsibility to voice your observations at appropriate and relevant times. Each and every class period you do not actively and meaningfully contribute to discussion your grade will drop further.

Why is discussion such a large part of your grade? Because live classroom discussion:

- allows me to better determine how to regulate time and assignments for your greatest benefit.
- gives me an additional indication of how closely and thoughtfully you have read, enabling
- me to evaluate your knowledge and abilities more fairly and accurately.
- helps you think in terms of the subject matter by giving you practice in thinking.
- helps you learn to evaluate the logic of and evidence for your own and others' positions.
- helps you learn what counts as evidence and how to evaluate knowledge claims.
- helps you understand how knowledge is arrived at in the discipline.
- gives you practice arguing with others respectfully and professionally.
- gives you opportunities to formulate applications of principles.
- helps you become aware of and formulate problems using information from lectures and readings.
- helps you construct knowledge you can recall and apply when needed.
- gives you prompt feedback on difficult or confusing issues and material.
- increases your retention of material through explaining, summarizing, and questioning.
- stimulates new ideas, approaches, questions, reading and research.

Student Conduct:

As a condition to remaining at MWSC, the college expects all students to conduct themselves so as to maintain an effective environment for learning; to act responsibly in accordance with good taste; and to respect fully the rights of others. Behavior that disrupts the classroom environment or interferes with other students' learning will result in dismissal from the classroom. Passionate and forceful language are sometimes appropriate, intolerance and dogmatism are not.

Assignment Requirements:

All out of class written assignments for this course must be word-processed unless otherwise specified. Non-word processed submissions will be returned with no credit. Assignments should follow MLA format, and pages should be stapled together before you come to class (do not use folders or paper clips and do not fold down the corners of papers). Do not throw away any work you do for this class, from notes to drafts to final papers, and keep back-up copies of all papers you turn in to me.

Late Work:

There will be none. All assignments are due at the beginning of the hour on the due date. Learning is a cumulative process, and each assignment is designed to build on the previous one. Late work disrupts this important aspect of the learning process. Hence, **no late work is accepted under any circumstances**, and there is no "make up" for any daily assignments.

Grading:

The standards for college English classes are higher than those used in high schools. All the guidelines and standards for classes at MWSC are similar to those used by other colleges and universities throughout the country. You, as a serious student, will appreciate the fact that we hold high standards for your work. Your grade will be determined by the quality of your drafts, major papers, quizzes, and other assignments, as well as by your preparation and participation. Assignments will be evaluated according to how well they meet the requirements outlined in the assignment description and the following general scale.

A = Superior

B = Above Average

C = Average

D = Minimum = passing below average

F = Failing

Participation and Shorter Writings = 25%

Mid-Term Exam = 25%

Short Papers = 25%

Final Exam = 25%

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is a most serious offense and, therefore, will incur harsh punishment. Don't think you won't get caught; writing style is distinctive and verifiable. It is the student's responsibility to prove that all work is their own. Any work with evidence of plagiarism, intentional or not, will receive a zero. Plagiarism may also result in failure of the course.

Disabilities:

Any student who has a disability that prevents the fullest expression of abilities should contact me immediately so that we can discuss class requirements.

General:

This syllabus is of a contractual nature, and by remaining in the course you acknowledge your acceptance of its stipulations in their entirety. If the goals, policies, procedures, standards, expectations, or obligations are unclear, then you should speak with me immediately. If they are clear but unacceptable to you, then you should drop the course immediately.

If you choose to remain in the course, be sure to keep a copy of this syllabus with you and to refer to it regularly. Policies are enforced without exception to ensure uniformity and predictability, to avoid confusion and anxiety, and to facilitate fairness and objectivity for all students. In the interest of efficiency, however, I reserve the right to make necessary alterations to this syllabus and to make announced changes in daily plans. Any announcements made in class automatically supersede this syllabus. It is your responsibility to find out about announced changes.

Final Thoughts:

For further explanations, comments, and advice, I am available during office hours. For additional help outside of class, I strongly recommend the Center for Academic Support.

I genuinely want you to succeed in this class and at MWSC generally. I therefore urge you to keep in mind that what you gain from this course, and your from your education generally, is proportional to the amount of productive time and careful attention you devote to it. In the words of Abigail Adams (1744-1818), "Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence."

Course Outline:

This outline shows major readings and assignments, but additional readings and assignments will be given in class throughout the semester.

8/25 Syllabus

27 "The Historical Context" p. 7-20

29 "The Literary Context" p. 20-32

9/1 Labor Day Holiday

3 Howells, "Editha"

5 Garland, "Under the Lion's Paw"

8 Norris, "A Deal in Wheat"

10 Twain, "Jim Smiley and His Jumping Frog"

12 Twain, "The £1,000,000 Bank Note"

15 Twain, "The Man That Corrupted Hadleyburg"

17 Bierce, "Chickamauga"

19 Bierce, "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge"

22 Bierce, "Parker Adderson, Philosopher"

24 James, "The Real Thing"

26 Jewett, "A White Heron"

29 Hardy, "Hap," "Nature's Questioning," "Doom and She," "The Subalterns,"
"The Ruined Maid," "In Tenebris II"

10/1 Hardy, "Drummer Hodge," "The Darkling Thrush," "God's Education," "Channel Firing,"
"The Convergence of the Twain," "The Voice," "Ah, Are You Digging on My Grave?"

3 Chopin, "Desiree's Baby"

6 Chopin, "A Pair of Silk Stockings" <<http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/ChoSilk.html>>

8 Freeman, "The Revolt of Mother"

10 Mid-Term Exam

13 Columbus Day Holiday

15 Crane, "An Experiment in Misery," poems (to be distributed)

17 TBA

20 Crane, "The Men in the Storm"; Dreiser, "Curious Shifts of the Poor"

22 9:00 and 10:00 classes cancelled for Convocation; Catch-up

24 Conferences

27 Chesnutt, "The Wife of His Youth"

29 Doyle, "A Scandal in Bohemia"

31 Doyle, "The Speckled Band"; Last Day to Drop

11/3 Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper"

5 Wells, *The Island of Doctor Moreau*, Ch. 1-9

7 Wells, *The Island of Doctor Moreau*, Ch. 10-16

10 Wells, *The Island of Doctor Moreau*, Ch. 17-22

12 Crane, "The Open Boat"

14 Crane, "The Bride Comes to Yellow Sky"

17 Crane, "The Blue Hotel"

19 London, "The White Silence"

21 London, "In a Far Country"

24 London, cont.

26-28 Thanksgiving Break

12/1 Paper Critique Day

3 London, "The Law of Life"

5 London, "To Build a Fire"

8 Last Paper Due; Review for Final

12/15 (M) Final Exam Period 2:00-3:50