ENG 308.001 Survey of American Literature 1865-1965
Spring 2013 • M and W 9:30-10:45 am • Curtin Hall 368

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DESCRIPTION
This course surveys American literature and history in a period of rapid and often jarring social, political, and technological change, stretching from the end of the U.S. Civil War and the start of Reconstruction to the peak of the Cold War and the midst of the sexual revolution. A broad range of literary readings will introduce students to the different kinds of U.S. literature that flourished during this century, ranging from canonical works by writers including Ernest Hemingway and Gertrude Stein to important and influential works by lesser known writers, including Native American memoirist Zitkala Sa and socialist poet Muriel Rukeyser. Our goal will be to understand the major developments in U.S. literature in selected historical contexts: the end of Reconstruction, the closing of the western frontier, the boom in European immigration, the rise of mass production and industrialization, the traumas of World War I, and the flourishing of African-American arts. Our readings will embrace a wide range of literary texts, including novels, poems, short stories, plays, essays, memoirs, autobiographies, and political speeches.

TEXTS

Ernest Hemingway, In Our Time, Scribner (ISBN 0684822768) $14

Musical selections are assigned for each day, and are available for streaming to your home or university computer through the Music Library’s electronic reserves. I’ll play most of these songs before or during class as well, but feel free to listen before or after your reading. The music is designed to illustrate parallel movements in the performing arts, indicate other important cultural contexts, and provoke critical thinking. The link to reserves page is: http://www4.uwm.edu/libraries/ereserve/puskar/ENGLISH308.html