

Spring 08
TR 2 p.m.
Stein 132

Sarah Luria
Fenwick 211; x3443
sluria@holycross.edu
OH T 3:30-4:30; M 1-3 (1/23-2/4);
F 10-12 (after 2/11) & by appt.

American Realism
or
Houses, Portraits, and Novels

Required Texts:

William Dean Howells *The Rise and Fall of Silas Lapham* (Signet)
Henry James, *Portrait of a Lady* (Signet)
Sarah Orne Jewett, *The Country of the Pointed Firs* (Signet)
Charles Chesnutt *Marrow of Tradition* (Penguin)
Edith Wharton, *House of Mirth* (Signet)
Readings on eres (pw: realism)

Course Goals:

In this course we will study one of the most significant, and persistent, and controversial trends in aesthetic representation in cultural history. You will learn to recognize and analyze this trend in both visual art and literature. You will develop your skills in analyzing both literary criticism and novels. And the #1 goal is to have you engage with these rich examples of 19th century literature as fully as possible and to discover how they help us to recognize and assess realism in its various manifestations in our world today.

Jan. 17R Introduction. Reality T.V.

Photographic Realism

22T Realist Accounts: results from realist experiment due
24R Howells, *Editor's Study*, and *Suburban Sketches*, excerpt from Balzac's *Père Goriot* (eres)

Social and Moral realism

29 T *Silas Lapham*, Chapters 1-9; Edith Wharton, *Decoration of Houses* (eres)
31 R *Lapham*, Chapters 10-13; Thomas Eakins, Portraits

Feb. 5 T *Silas Lapham*, Chapters 14-20
7 R *Silas Lapham*, Chapters 21-26 (end)

Psychological Realism

12 T Henry James, "Art of Fiction"; "The Real Thing" (eres) and
John Singer Sargent, Portraits

- 14 R James, *Portrait of a Lady*, chapters 1-6
- 19 T *Portrait of a Lady*, chapters 7-15; **class journals due**
- 21 R *Portrait of a Lady*, chapters 16-27
- 26 T *Portrait of a Lady*, chapters 28-37
- 28 R *Portrait of a Lady*, chapters 38-49
- No Classes—Spring Vacation
- Mar. 11 T *Portrait of a Lady*, chapters 50-55
- Regionalism**
- 13 R Jewett, *Country of the Pointed Firs*, chapters 1-11
- 18 T *Country of the Pointed Firs*, chapters 12-end; **Essay 1 due**
- Easter Recess
- Magical Realism**
- 25 T Chesnutt, “Goopher’d Grapevine” and “Po’ Sandy” (eres)
- Political Realism**
- 27 R Du Bois, *Souls of Black Folk*, “Forethought” & Chapter 1
Henry Ossawa Tanner, Portraits
- Apr. 1 T Chesnutt, *Marrow of Tradition*, chapters 1-9; **class journals due**
- 3 R *Marrow of Tradition*, chapters 10-23
- 8 T *Marrow of Tradition*, chapters 24-37
- Social and Moral Realism (redux)**
- 10 R Wharton, *House of Mirth*, 1-6
- 15 T *House of Mirth* 7-12; **Essay 2 due**
- 17 R *House of Mirth*, 13- Book II, Chapter 3
- 22 T *House of Mirth*, 4-10
- 24 R *House of Mirth*, 11-14
Kaplan, “Crowded Spaces in Edith Wharton’s *House of Mirth*” (eres);
- 29 T Spike Jonze, *Adaptation*
Film Response due
class journals due
- Final Exam, Due date to be announced**

Grading: Class Journal = 15%; Essay 1 = 20% ; Essay 2 = 20% ; Film Response = 15%;
Final Exam = 25%; Class Participation = 5%

Class Policies:

- Be prepared for a few changes to the syllabus as we see how the course evolves.
- Class discussion will be essential to the course. Come to class each day with a question you have about our reading. Your journal will be essential in generating these. Be prepared for me to say at some point during the hour, “Julie, what question do you have for us today?”
- Plagiarism: Plagiarism means presenting other people’s ideas or words as your own. You will not be asked to use sources beyond those included in the course. If you choose to consult other sources, whether in your class journal or your essays, you must cite your source. To wit: if you summarize, paraphrase, or use language from another source you must provide the proper citation. If you do not quote the exact words, you must recast the sentences entirely in your own words; you may not even follow the original pattern or syntax of the sentence. We will go over this in class but you are responsible for making sure you fully understand and abide by this code of academic honesty. Any essay caught plagiarizing any amount of material will receive an F and a note will be sent to your class dean. Please review the College policy on plagiarism.
- Late papers: If you do not come to class on the day your essay is due, then your essay will be counted late. If you do come to class but don’t have your essay then you will have until 4 p.m. of that day to get it to me and it will not be counted late. Late essays are penalized 1/3 of a grade for each day they are late, including weekends. So Friday’s A- is Monday’s B-.