ENG 391 19th Century American Novel
Fall 2011, CRN 12666
Tuesday/Thursday 12-1:20, Knight 41
Professor Thorsson
Email: thorsson@uoregon.edu
Office Hours: T/Th 10-11:30am and by appointment, 521 PLC

Course Description
In this course, we will examine formal strategies and thematic concerns of 19th century American novels. Using close reading and historical context, we'll investigate these questions: How do our authors imagine Americanness? What are the possibilities and limits of the novel form and how are they tied to national identity? How do these novels construct race, class, and gender? This course is designed to help you engage in literary study and intellectual conversation. It is thus an opportunity to hone your critical faculty through scholarly discussion and analytical writing about literature.

Required Readings available at the UO Bookstore or online as noted in schedule:
Novels:
James Fenimore Cooper  The Last of the Mohicans (1826), Penguin Classics
Nathaniel Hawthorne  The House of the Seven Gables (1851), Norton Critical
Harriet Beecher Stowe  Uncle Tom's Cabin (1852), Norton Critical
Herman Melville  Benito Cereno (1855) in Billy Budd and Other Stories, Penguin Classics
Mark Twain  The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (1884), Norton Critical
Paul Laurence Dunbar  The Sport of the Gods (1903), Modern Library Classics

Criticism:
Mark Twain  “Fenimore Cooper’s Literary Offenses” (1895)
Herman Melville  “Hawthorne and His Mosses” (1850)
James Baldwin  "Everybody's Protest Novel" (1949)
Paul Laurence Dunbar "Harriet Beecher Stowe" (1898)
Toni Morrison "This Amazing, Troubling Book" (1999)

Course Requirements and Policies:
Careful reading, vigorous participation, and regular attendance are mandatory. Bring the assigned readings to class and be prepared to discuss them. Missing class more than twice in the term will result in reduction of your final grade by 1/3 of a letter grade for each absence beyond the two permitted.

Assignments:
- Two close readings (2-3 pages each) that observe and analyze both formal and thematic aspects of a passage of your choice from our readings.
- A paper proposal (2-3 pages) including a draft introduction, a detailed outline, and a preliminary bibliography with primary and secondary sources. Bring 2 copies of your paper proposal to class on the due date.
A final paper (5-7 pages) in which you make an argument about one of our primary texts and support that argument using close reading as evidence. You must use at least one secondary source in your final paper.

Assignments must be submitted in hard copy at the beginning of class on the due dates listed below and formatted according to current MLA guidelines (1 inch margins, single-side print, stapled, correct citation and quotation including works cited). Consult the *MLA Handbook* if you are uncertain of correct MLA format. Late assignments will be marked down by 1/3 of a letter grade (B becomes a B-) for each day they are late. No papers will be accepted more than one week after the due date.

If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please meet with me soon. Also please request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities send me a letter outlining your approved accommodations. Disability Services: disabsrv@darkwing.uoregon.edu, 346-1155; http://ds.uoregon.edu/.

The University Student Conduct Code (available at conduct.uoregon.edu) defines academic misconduct. Students are prohibited from committing or attempting to commit any act that constitutes academic misconduct. By way of example, students should not give or receive unauthorized help on assignments or examinations without express permission from the instructor. Students should properly acknowledge and document all sources of information (e.g. quotations, paraphrases, ideas). If there is any question about whether an act constitutes academic misconduct, it is the students’ obligation to clarify the question with the instructor before committing or attempting to commit the act. Additional information about a common form of academic misconduct, plagiarism, is available at: www.libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students

**Grading:**

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<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Close Reading #1</td>
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<td>Close Reading #2</td>
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<td>Paper Proposal w/ Bibliography</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
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**Week 1**

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<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>T 9/27</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>Th 9/29</td>
<td><strong>No class</strong></td>
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**Week 2**

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<tr>
<td>T 10/4</td>
<td><em>The Last of the Mohicans</em>, Introduction, Prefaces, Ch I-XVIII</td>
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<td>Th 10/6</td>
<td><em>The Last of the Mohicans</em>, Ch XIX-XXIV</td>
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<td>Close Reading Handout (Blackboard)</td>
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**Week 3**

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<td>T 10/11</td>
<td><em>The Last of the Mohicans</em>, Ch XXV-end</td>
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Mark Twain, "Fenimore Cooper's Literary Offenses" online at: http://etext.virginia.edu/railton/projects/rissetto/offense.html

**Week 4**

**T 10/18**

The House of the Seven Gables, Ch VI-XVII

**Close Reading #1 Due (2-3 p)**

**Th 10/20**

The House of the Seven Gables, Ch XVIII-end

Herman Melville, "Hawthorne and His Mosses" online at: http://eldritchpress.org/nh/hahm.html

**Week 5**

**T 10/25**

Uncle Tom's Cabin, Prefaces, Ch I-XVIII (Vol I)

**Th 10/27**

Uncle Tom's Cabin, Ch XIX-XXVIII (first part of Vol II)

**Week 6**

**T 11/1**

Uncle Tom's Cabin, Ch XXIX-end

Paul Laurence Dunbar, "Harriet Beecher Stowe" in Norton *UTC*

James Baldwin, "Everybody's Protest Novel" in Norton *UTC*

**Th 11/3**

Benito Cereno, p 159-192

**Week 7**

**T 11/8**

Benito Cereno, 193-end

**Close Reading #2 Due (2-3 p)**

**Th 11/10**

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Preface, Explanatory, Ch I-VIII

**Week 8**

**T 11/15**

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Ch IX-XXIX

**Th 11/17**

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Ch XXX-end

Toni Morrison, "This Amazing, Troubling Book" in Norton *HF*

**Week 9**

**T 11/22**

Workshop Paper Proposals

**Final Paper Proposal (2-3 p), bring 2 copies to class**

**Th 11/24**

No Class, Thanksgiving

**Week 10**

**T 11/29**

The Sport of the Gods, General Introduction, Chronology, p 297-355

**Th 12/1**

The Sport of the Gods, p 356-end

**T 12/6**

Final Paper Due (5-7 p) to Prof. Thorsson's office (521 PLC) by 5pm