STUDIES IN AMERICAN LITERATURE
ENG 485/585
4 credits
Writing Intensive Course

Rationale for conversion: The conversion will promote learning-intensive integration of
digital resources for the study of American literature and culture, such as online archives
on writers, movements, and text variants. At least one assignment added will focus on
integration of digital scholarship.
This course continues to meet WIC outcomes.

The four credit version will:
• Add instruction in research methodology appropriate to the use of digital and print
  scholarship in the advanced study of American literature;
• Add a written assignment to integrate digital scholarship.
The core syllabus below reflects a three credit generic version most recently taught.

Course Description:
Special topics in American literary history. Organized around movements, regions, themes, or
major authors. Topics change from term to term. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 credits as
topics vary.

Student learning outcomes for ENG 485:
• critically read, recognize, and analyze American literary and cultural texts and their
  relation to American history and culture;
• understand authorship, tradition, and innovation in American literary and cultural texts
  and their relation to American history and culture;
• Use informed writing to think critically about American literature in cultural context.
• use the language of literary texts to think and write critically and analytically;
• search, access, and integrate digital scholarship in the study of American literary texts
  and their relation to American history and culture.

Differentiation of Graduate Student learning outcomes for English 585:
• critically read, recognize, and analyze American literary and cultural texts and their
  relation to American history and culture;
• read, analyze, and cite critical articles and monographs;
• synopsize and thoughtfully engage contrasting views of the development of American
  culture through its literature;
• understand authorship, tradition, and innovation in American literary and cultural texts
  and their relation to American history and culture;
• efficiently convey the major terms of critical debates in written work and/or oral
  presentations;
• gain mastery of the critical reception of key American authors and literary texts.
Evaluation of student performance for ENG 485: Participation and attendance (30%). Four 750-word essays, one on each author covered in the course (10% for each of the 4 essays). A final essay of 2000 words for students in 485 (30%)

Evaluation of student performance in ENG 585: Students in 585 will write a paper of 4000 words (30%). Students in 585 will additionally give a focused and clear in-class presentation on literary scholarship.

Statement Regarding Disability Access Services:
Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty, and Disability Access Services (DAS). Students with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 737-4098.

Link to Statement of Expectations for Student Conduct:
http://oregonstate.edu/admin/stucon/achon.htm

Topic: Edith Wharton and the Late Nineteenth-Century Novel

Required Texts:
William Dean Howells, The Rise of Silas Lapham
Henry James, The American
Mark Twain, Pudd’nhead Wilson
Edith Wharton, The Custom of the Country
Edith Wharton, The House of Mirth

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNED READINGS

Week One: Howells, The Rise of Silas Lapham, Chs. 1-5
Week Two: Howells, The Rise of Silas Lapham, Chs. 6-19.
Week Three: Howells, The Rise of Silas Lapham, Chs. 20-End; Twain, Pudd’nhead Wilson, Chs. 1-10.
*Howells Essay Due*
Week Four: Twain, Pudd’nhead Wilson, Ch. 11-End; James, The American, Chs. 1-5
*Twain Essay Due*
Week Five: James, The American, Chs. 6-19.
Week Six: James, The American, Chs. 20-End; Wharton, The Custom of the Country, Chs. 1-10 (Book 1)
*James Essay Due*
Week Seven: Wharton, The Custom of the Country, Chs. 11-30 (Books 2 and 3)
Week Eight: Wharton, The Custom of the Country, Chs. 31-46 (Books 4 and 5); Wharton, The House of Mirth, Book 1, Chs. 1-5
*Wharton Essay Due*
Week Nine: Wharton, The House of Mirth, Book 1, Chs. 6-15
*Final Essay Due*