

Instructor: Jacquelyn Ardam  
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Class: Mondays & Wednesdays, 10:00-11:50, Pub Aff 2292  
Office Hours: Mondays, 4:00-6:00, Humanities 211

**English 174A:  
American Fiction 1900-1945**

This course will cover American fiction written between 1900 and 1945. The course will be organized around the theme of affiliation, and particularly the ways in which characters identify (or don't) as part of national, racial, ethnic, familial, socioeconomic, and gendered groups. In class, we will emphasize the relationship between form and content, and pay close attention to the styles and concerns of individual authors while also identifying trends that extend across the first half of the twentieth century. In addition to thinking about affiliation and identity, we will also consider cultural, historical, and literary concerns including modernization, immigration, cosmopolitanism, regionalism, literary experimentation, and feminism.

**Texts:**

*The House of Mirth*, Edith Wharton: 978-0451474308

*Three Lives*, Gertrude Stein: 978-0486280592

*The Great Gatsby*, F. Scott Fitzgerald: 978-0743273565

*The Sun Also Rises*, Ernest Hemingway: 978-0743297332

*Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, Anita Loos: 978-0141180694

*Passing*, Nella Larsen: 978-0142437278

*As I Lay Dying*, William Faulkner: 978-0679732259

*Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Zora Neale Hurston: 978-0061120060

*The Day of the Locust*, Nathanael West: 978-0811218221

PDFs of short stories by Anzia Yezierska and Sui Sin Far available on course website

**Assignments and Grading:**

Paper 1 (5-6 pages): 25%

Paper 2 (7-8 pages): 40%

Reading Responses: 15%

Participation: 20%

You will receive a separate handout that includes guidelines for each of your papers.

**Reading Responses:** You are required to upload a 500-word reading response on the class website (<http://ccle.ucla.edu/>) **five times** throughout the quarter. You may submit your responses any week you'd like. I will often use reading responses as a jumping off point for lectures, and will likely share responses in class. In your response, you may identify the major issues and concerns of a text and/or do close readings. **Please end each response with at least one question; this may be a question that you have about the text or a question that you think will spur class discussion.** Your responses are due at **5pm** on the **SUNDAY** before class. Late responses will not be allowed by the course website.

**Submission Instructions:**

1. Write your response in Word (or whatever other program you use). Make sure your name is on the top of the page.
2. Save it as a .doc, .docx, or PDF and label it: "Last Name Week #" for example: "Ardam 1."
3. Log on to CCLE, and head over to the left side of the course webpage and click the relevant week

(such as: "Week 2").

4. Click on "Reading Response Week #;" upload your file there.

5. Click on "Save Changes," then "Submit for grading."

**Participation:** This is a small class and its success depends on active dialogue between students. Please come to class fully prepared to discuss the material. If you have trouble speaking in class, you might want to consider bringing prepared questions and/or comments with you.

While UCLA has no official attendance policy, you cannot participate in class if you are not actually in class. More than one absence will have a negative effect on your participation grade.

**Office Hours:** I will hold office hours on Mondays from 4:00-6:00pm in Humanities 211. I will hold extra office hours during the week before papers are due. While I am happy to help you brainstorm, office hours are most beneficial when you have a purpose in mind, so please come prepared with several specific questions or ideas that you'd like to discuss. If you are not available to meet during my normal office hours, I am happy to make alternate arrangements to meet with you.

**Paper Policy:** Papers are due via the course website by the time and date marked on the syllabus. You may submit your paper as a Word document (.doc or .docx) or as a PDF. If you send me a corrupted file or a file that I cannot open, your paper will count as late until I receive a workable file. Late papers will be penalized 1/3 of a grade for each late day. I will return your papers to you via the course website.

**Format of Papers:** All papers should include your name, my name, the class title and number, and date. They should be formatted in size 12 font, with 1 inch margins.

**Email Policy:** Please feel free to contact me via email at [jardam@ucla.edu](mailto:jardam@ucla.edu) with questions or concerns throughout the quarter. I will respond to emails within 24 hours during the week. I will not respond to emails over the weekend. I will not respond to any questions about papers 24 hours before each of the papers is due, nor will I read entire drafts of your paper. If you have long or complicated questions, I suggest that you meet with me during office hours. Meeting in person is usually much more productive than exchanging emails.

**Electronics Policy:** Please silence your electronic devices during class. In the interest of encouraging attentive, focused, and open class discussions, **laptops will NOT be allowed in class**. You will not need them.

**Plagiarism:** The UCLA Dean of Students defines plagiarism as "the presentation of another's words or ideas as if they were one's own, including but not limited to: submitting, as your own, through purchase or otherwise, part of or an entire work produced verbatim by someone else, paraphrasing ideas, data, or writing without properly acknowledging the source, and unauthorized transfer and use of another person's computer file as your own."

Please visit <http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/integrity.html> for more information, or come to see me during office hours if you have any concerns about how to prevent plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious offense, and any instances will be reported to the Dean of Students and may result in dismissal from UCLA.

## Schedule of Readings

### Week 1:

Mon 3/28: First day of class, introductions

Weds 3/30: Edith Wharton, *The House of Mirth* (Book 1: Chapters 1-7)

### Week 2:

Mon 4/4: Edith Wharton, *The House of Mirth* (Book 1: Chapters 8-15; Book 2: Chapters 1-4)

Weds 4/6: Edith Wharton, *The House of Mirth* (Book 2: Chapters 5-14)

### Week 3:

Mon 4/11: Gertrude Stein, "Melanctha" (from *Three Lives*)

Weds 4/13: Sui Sin Far, "Its Wavering Image"

Anzia Yezierska, "The Free Vacation House"

### Week 4:

Mon 4/18: F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby* (Chapters 1-6)

Weds 4/20: F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby* (Chapters 7-9)

### Week 5:

Mon 4/25: Ernest Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises* (Chapters 1-14)

Weds 4/27: Ernest Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises* (Chapters 15-19)

### Week 6:

Mon 5/2: Anita Loos, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*

Weds 5/4: Nella Larsen, *Passing* (Parts 1 & 2)

**\*\*PAPER 1 DUE, FRIDAY 5/6 by 12pm\*\***

### Week 7

Mon 5/9: Nella Larsen, *Passing* (Part 3)

Mon 5/11: William Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying* (pgs 1-111)

### Week 8

Mon 5/16: William Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying* (pgs 112-261)

Weds 5/18: Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (Chapters 1-8)

### Week 9

Mon 5/23: Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (Chapters 9-20)

Weds 5/25: Nathanael West, *The Day of the Locust* (Chapters 1-14)

### Week 10:

Mon 5/30: Memorial day, no class

Weds 6/1: Nathanael West, *The Day of the Locust* (Chapters 15-27)

**\*\*PAPER 2 DUE, FRIDAY 6/10 by 12pm \*\***