

English 3351
American Literature after 1865
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Course Goals: Our purpose is to improve skills in critical thinking, literary analysis, composition, and style. In this course, we will work on these skills through reading and discussion of modern and postmodern American literature, focusing on a small sample of major authors, movements, and issues. Each of the biggest readings in the course centers on a road trip. Through a shift or shifts in setting, these works invoke landscapes that force a self-consciousness onto their main characters. This process raises large issues in the American cultural landscape: modernity, exceptionalism, the American dream, capitalism, race relations, gender roles, sexuality, nationalism, and the transnational. Through analysis of these categories, we will search for deeper understandings of these common themes.

Requirements: 3 papers and several pop quizzes.

Prospective Reading list includes:

James Baldwin, "Sonny's Blues"

Paul Bowles, *The Sheltering Sky*

Stephen Crane, "The Blue Hotel"

William Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying*

Jamaica Kincaid, *Lucy*

Cormac McCarthy, *The Road*

Flannery O'Connor, "A Good Man Is Hard to Find"

Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*