

Course Syllabus

AML4242-S203 /26886 - Studies 20th C Am Lit

The Progressive Era

Course Meetings: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, period 5 (11:45-12:35) in Matherly 113, unless otherwise indicated in the course calendar

Instructor: Professor Susan Hegeman / shegeman@ufl.edu/

Office hours: Fridays, 1-3 pm in Turlington 4119, or by appointment, via

Zoom. <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/3087752224> (Links to an external site.) Meeting ID: 308 775 2224

Course Description

The Progressive Era in American history (roughly 1890-1920) is so named because of the reformist politics and social activism of the period, which took on corruption in government and big business, and sought to counteract some of the worst effects of mass immigration, urbanization, industrialization, poverty, and racism. The narrative literature of the period reflected this activist mood, taking on topics including populism, lynching, prostitution, urban housing and sanitation, women's rights, and the power of corporate trusts. Also notable in this literary moment was a close connection between journalism and narrative fiction – so close, in fact, that a many of the best-known fiction writers of the period were also journalists. In this class, we will read exemplary works of fiction (novels and short stories) and nonfiction from the Progressive Era, and examine how the social movements of the period affected literary efforts, and vice versa.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

- Students will learn about the history and culture of the US between the years 1880 and 1920, especially "progressive" movements for social reform
- students will learn about the literary history of the US, particularly in regard to realism and naturalism, and the relationship between politics and these literary forms
- students will develop their skills in interpreting a variety of primary texts, including works of literature and film, through close reading and contextual analysis
- students will develop advanced skills in critical thinking, analysis, argumentation, and oral communication
- students will develop advanced critical writing skills through the completion of academic research papers

Required Course Materials

Books

The following books are listed in the order in which we will read them. Other editions, including e-books, are acceptable, but students are responsible for keeping up with locations of passages discussed in class, and for being able to properly cite the editions referenced in papers.

- William Dean Howells, *A Hazard of New Fortunes* 978-0140439236 Penguin
- Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle* 978-0486419237 Dover
- Stephen Crane, *Maggie, a Girl of the Streets and other New York Writings* 978-0375756894 Modern Library
- Willa Cather, *My Ántonia* 978-0486282404 Dover
- Abraham Cahan, *Yekl and the Imported Bridegroom and Other stories of Yiddish New York* 978-0486224275 Dover
- W.E.B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk* 978-0486280417 Dover
- James Weldon Johnson, *Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man* 978-0140184020 Penguin

Films

The following films are listed in the order in which you will watch them. They are all available for streaming, free of charge. You will view them on your own.

- *The Poison Squad* (2020, American Experience, PBS) <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/poison-squad/#part01> (Links to an external site.)
- *The Vote* (2020, American Experience, PBS) https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/vote/?feature_filer=Video#part01 (Links to an external site.)
- *The Traffic in Souls* (1913, d. George Loane Tucker) is available for streaming on Youtube: [Traffic in Souls -- George Loane Tucker 1913 USA](#) (Links to an



[external site.](#))

- The Eugenics Crusade (2018, American Experience, PBS) <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/eugenics-crusade/#part01> (Links to an external site.)

All other course materials—other required and supplementary readings, syllabus, documents, assignments, and course calendar—are posted on the course’s Canvas e-learning website.

Course Content Note

The course materials describe, and we will discuss, potentially disturbing topics, including violence, sexual abuse, and disease. If you ever feel the need to leave a class discussion, either for a short time or for the rest of the class session, you may do so without academic penalty. You will, however, be responsible for any material you miss. If you do leave the room for a significant time, please get notes from another student or contact me individually. You are welcome to discuss your personal reactions to the course material with me in office hours. If you or a friend are in distress, please contact [U Matter, We Care](#) or the Counseling and Wellness Center at 352 392-1575.

Tech Requirements and Policies

You are required to have access to Canvas for accessing course materials and turning in assignments.

For help with all tech issues, contact the UF Computing Help Desk:

Web: <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu> (Links to an external site.)

Phone: (352) 392-HELP (4357)

Email: helpdesk@ufl.edu

Walk-in: HUB 132

Any requests for accommodations (e.g. credit for overdue work) due to technical issues must be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem.

Recording Policy

According to state law, students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the

University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Class Compartment Expectations

1. Respectful interactions among students are expected. Participation grades will be negatively affected by a failure to adhere to professional, polite, scholarly, and respectful communication in all formats, both written and oral.
2. [Per university policy \(Links to an external site.\)](#), you are expected to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings even if you are vaccinated against COVID.
3. If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available at no cost and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit this link for details on where to get vaccines and boosters: <https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/> (Links to an external site.).
4. If you get sick, you are expected to stay home and self-quarantine. Please visit the [UF Health Screen, Test & Protect \(Links to an external site.\)](#) website about next steps, retake the questionnaire and schedule your test for no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms began. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 (or email covid@shcc.ufl.edu) to be evaluated for testing and to receive further instructions about returning to campus. [UF Health Screen, Test & Protect \(Links to an external site.\)](#) offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or have tested positive yourself. Continue to regularly visit coronavirus.UFHealth.org (Links to an external site.) and coronavirus.ufl.edu (Links to an external site.) for up-to-date information about COVID-19 and vaccination.

Course Requirements and Grading

GRADING SCALE

A	4.0	94-100	940-1000	C	2.0	73-76	730-769
A-	3.67	90-93	900-939	C-	1.67	70-72	700-729
B+	3.33	87-89	870-899	D+	1.33	67-69	670-699
B	3.0	83-86	830-869	D	1.0	63-66	630-669
B-	2.67	80-82	800-829	D-	0.67	60-62	600-629
C+	2.33	77-79	770-799	E	0.00	0-59	0-599

BREAKDOWN OF FINAL GRADE

Attendance and participation	140 points; 14% of final grade
quizzes	60 points; 6% of final grade
magazine assignment	200 points; 20% of final grade
Paper 1	300 points; 30% of final grade
Paper 2	300 points; 30% of final grade

Attendance and participation (140 points; 14% of final grade)

In this class, we will all learn by respectfully listening to, reading, and engaging with each others' ideas. It is therefore expected that students come to class, and that they come prepared to discuss the material assigned for that day. Students will be graded on their attendance and on the quality of their oral and written contributions to classroom discussion. Participation includes oral and chat contributions to class discussions via Canvas. The best grades will be given to those who offer informed, incisive, and relevant comments regarding the course readings and related discussions. Poor attendance will adversely effect students' participation grade.

University policy requires that absences be accepted with prior notice for university sponsored events (e.g., athletics) and religious holidays.

Students who are ill or test positive for COVID are expected to be considerate of others and self-quarantine. Students' grades will not be adversely affected by this if you inform the instructor of your situation. Students are expected to contact the instructor if they anticipate extended medical absences so that we can work on a plan to keep up with the class. Documentation will be required.

Quizzes (60 points; 6% of final grade)

There will be three short quizzes, each worth 20 points, on the three documentary films assigned for the course.

Completion dates for the quizzes are:

- *The Poison Squad*: Sunday, January 30
- *The Vote, Part 1*: Tuesday, Feb. 15

- *The Eugenics Crusade*: Sunday, March 13

Magazine Assignment (200 points; 20% of final grade)

Students will select an item--nonfiction article, short story, poem, or substantial illustration--from a magazine published between 1880 and 1920. Students will use the Modernist Journals Project, an online archive of journals published in the decades around the turn of the 20th century (<https://modjourn.org/journal/> ([Links to an external site.](#))). They will write a description and contextualization of the item in an essay of approximately 1000 words, due January 28.

Papers (300 points; 30% of final grade, each)

Students will write two formal academic papers, of 1800-2400 words each. The papers will substantially address a work of literature assigned for the class. Full details on the paper assignments, including topics and formatting guidelines, are available on Canvas, under the "Assignments" navigation tab. The papers are due on March 4 and April 22, respectively.

Papers will be graded wholistically on the following criteria, in general order of emphasis:

- Argumentation: clear thesis, logical sequence of argument, logical conclusions
- Use of appropriate evidence from the texts
- Demonstrated understanding of contextual issues in relation to works discussed (accurate explication of concepts and arguments; accurate use of terminology and historical information; accurate application to texts)
- Mechanics: punctuation, spelling, word choice and usage, sentence construction, paragraphing
- Proofreading and citations

Accommodations for Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu/>). Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor. Students needing accommodations should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Academic Honesty Policy

Students are required to review the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>).

Plagiarism or any other violation of the Student Honor and Conduct Code will result in an automatic failure of the assignment. A report will be filed with the Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution Office. <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-honor-code/>

According to the Student Conduct Code, "Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

1. Stealing, misquoting, insufficiently paraphrasing, or patch-writing.
2. Self-plagiarism, which is the reuse of the Student's own submitted work, or the simultaneous submission of the Student's own work, without the full and clear acknowledgment and permission of the Faculty to whom it is submitted.
3. Submitting materials from any source without proper attribution.
4. Submitting a document, assignment, or material that, in whole or in part, is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment the Student did not author."

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

Campus Resources

Health and Wellness

- U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend are in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc>, or 352 392-1575.
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS): Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.
- University Police Department: 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>.

Academic Resources

- E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.
- Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <https://www.crc.ufl.edu/>.
- Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>.
- Writing Studio, 2215 Turlington Hall, 846-1138. Help with brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>.

- Disability Resource Center, Reid Hall. 392-8565. Help with academic and other accommodations. <https://disability.ufl.edu/>

Schedule of Readings, Discussions, and Assignments

[January 5-10: readings and assignments](#)

[January 12-28 readings and assignments](#)

[Jan. 31-Feb. 16 readings and assignments](#)

[Feb. 18-March 4 readings and assignments](#)

[March 14-April 1 readings and assignments](#)

[April 4-20 readings and assignments](#)

These pages may also be found in the "Modules" navigation tab on Canvas, along with links to any accompanying materials. This represents my current plans for readings and discussions. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change based on the interests and needs of the class as a whole. Any such changes will be communicated early, in class and via Canvas. Students are responsible for staying informed about any changes in the class schedule by regularly consulting the Canvas course page.