Humanities 560C: The American Historical Novel 5:00 – 6:15, Tuesday and Thursday, Hodson Technology 235 Professor William Heath Office: Hodson Library 4013 Office Hours: 4 – 5, Tuesdays and Thursday, other times by appointment heath@hood.edu

The American Historical Novel: Syllabus

Required Texts: Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter* (Norton Critical Edition); Gore Vidal, *Burr*; William Heath, *Blacksnake's Path: The True Adventures of William Wells*; William Faulkner, *Absalom*, *Absalom*; Michael Shaara, *The Killer Angels*; Edith Wharton, *The Age of Innocence*

Assignments: Students will write three 5-10 page essays over the course of the semester in order to demonstrate their understanding of the texts and offer their own interpretations. The Norton Critical Edition of *The Scarlet Letter* includes short stories by Hawthorne and a wide selection of critical essays. Students will make use of these to sharpen their scholarly skills. While many of these essays are straight literary analysis, several are interdisciplinary and provide examples of how various contexts and disciplines can be applied to fiction. At least one of the three essays written during the semester should demonstrate research skills and an ability to use secondary sources. Other essays, however, can be based solely on your close reading of a text. Students will also make class presentations, either on a critic, secondary source, or the reading assignment for the text under discussion. There might also be an occasional quiz (very few) to test your close reading skills and retention of a text.

The Honor Code: All students are aware that Hood expects academic honesty and that any violation of the honor code carries serious consequences. There are, however, some gray areas in relation to plagiarism that students also need to be clear about. Direct use of an unacknowledged source is, of course, forbidden, but some students don't know that paraphrasing of a secondary source must be in their own words (any phrases from the original must be in quotations) and also has to be footnoted. Quotations from the literary text under discussion, provided the edition is the one required for class, can simply be acknowledged by placing the page number in parenthesis at the end of the quote. Use of a different text requires more formal footnoting. Quotations of four or more lines should be set off-indented, single-spaced, with a footnote or page number in parenthesis. A set-off quotation does not require quotation marks around it, but if there is dialogue quoted in the quote, these should retain their quotation marks (if you're confused, please ask me to explain in more detail). With secondary sources, students may use a Works Cited page, with an abbreviated title and page number in parenthesis after the quotation, or employ regular footnote numbers, with the source identified either at the bottom of the page or in the back. Whatever method you use, please be consistent. Heavy reliance on the internet is strongly discouraged, both because it is difficult to identify reliable sources and also because it is hard to document exactly where the information came from. The internet is, however, very valuable to help you access valid scholarly sources (use Jastor and other Hood databases), which can then be downloaded and properly noted. In the case of any confusion about correct documentation, please ask me for advice before you submit your essay for grading. After it is submitted, you are responsible for any errors.

Attendance and Class Participation: Students will be permitted two unexcused absences during the semester. Additional absences must be for a valid reason that can be proved. During flu season, students are urged to not come to class if they have symptoms. Contact me via email to discuss assignments and any make-up work. Four or more unexcused absences will lower your grade and are grounds for failure. Students who find they must miss a high number of classes should consider dropping the course. Active participation in class discussion is expected.

Grading: Each essay will count 25% of the final grade (a total of 75%); class participation, brief oral reports, quizzes, and short response papers 25%.

Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

August 25: Introduction

- August 27: Hawthorne's Short Stories about the Puritans Read: "The May-Pole of Merry Mount," (handout) "Young Goodman Brown," "The Minister's Black Veil," "Endicott and the Red Cross." Criticism: William Heath, "Merry Old England and Hawthorne's 'The May-Pole of Merry Mount'" (handout) Frederick Crews, "Escapism in 'Young Goodman Brown' and 'The Minister's Black Veil'"
- September 1: Why Hawthorne Wrote *The Scarlet Letter* Read: "The Custom House" and Chapters I-IV Criticism: Michael Colacurcio, "Footsteps of Ann Hutchinson"
- September 3: Hester, Pearl, Chillingworth, and Dimmesdale Read: Chapters V-XI Criticism: Millicent Bell, "The Obliquity of Signs" Nina Baym, "Revisiting Hawthorne's Feminism"
- September 8: The Scaffold Scene to The Forest Scene Read: Chapters XII-XVIII Criticism: Stephen Railton, "The Address of *The Scarlet Letter*"
- September 10: What is the "office" of the Scarlet Letter? Read: Chapters XIX-XXIV Criticism: Sacvan Bercovitch, "The A-Politics of Ambiguity in *The Scarlet Letter*"
- September 15: Gore Vidal's *Burr* Read: Section One "1833," chapters 1-12
- September 17: *Burr* Read: Section Two, "1834," chapters 1-17
- September 22: *Burr* Read: Section Two, "1834," chapters 18-36.
- September 24: *Burr* Read: Section Three, "1835," and "Afterword"

September 29: William Heath's *Blacksnake's Path: The True Adventures of William Wells* Read: Part I, pages 3-101 **First Essay on Hawthorne or Vidal Due**

- September 30: William Heath discusses and reads from *Blacksnake's Path* This presentation is part of the NEH/Libman Cultural Series for the Humanities at Hood 7:00 p.m., The Marx Center.
- September 31: *Blacksnake's Path* Read: Part II, pages 105-177
- October 1: *Blacksnake's Path* Read: Part II, pages 178-258
- October 6: *Blacksnake's Path* Read: Part III and "Epilogue," pages 261-358
- October 8: Retrospective Discussion on the American Historical Novel

Fall Break

- October 15: William Faulkner's *Absalom, Absalom* Read: Chapters 1-2
- October 20: *Absalom, Abslaom* Read: Chapters 3-4
- October 22: *Absalom, Absalom* Read: Chapters 5-6
- October 27: *Absalom, Absalom* Read: Chapter 7
- October 29: *Absalom, Absalom* Read: Chapters 8-9
- November 3: Michael Shaara, *The Killer Angels* Read: "Foreward" to "Longstreet" Second Essay on Heath or Faulkner Due
- November 5: *The Killer Angels* Read: "The First Day" July 1, 1863
- November 10: *The Killer Angels* Read: "The Second Day" July 2, 1863
- November 12: *The Killer Angels* Read: "The Third Day" July 3, 1863

November 17: Thomas Berger's *Little Big Man* Read: From "Foreward" to Chapter 8

November 19: *Little Big Man* Read: Chapters 9-16

November 24: *Little Big Man* Read: Chapters 17-22

Thanksgiving Recess

December 1: *Little Big Man* Read: Chapters 23-"Epilogue"

December 3: Edith Wharton's *The Age of Innocence* Read: Book One, chapters 1-9

December 8: *The Age of Innocence* Read: Book One, chapters 10-18

December 10: *The Age of Innocence* Read: Book Two, chapters 19-27

December 15: *The Age of Innocence* Read: Book Two, chapters 28-34

December 17: Last Day of Class Retrospective Discussion on the American Historical Novel

December 21: Last Day to Turn in Final Essay on Shaara, Berger, or Wharton

Selected Bibliography

Hawthorne, The Scarlet Letter, and Puritan New England

Biographies

Randall Stewart, Nathaniel Hawthorne: A Biography (1948)
Vernon Loggins, The Hawthornes (1951)
James R. Mellow, Nathaniel Hawthorne in His Times (1980)
Arlin Turner, Nathaniel Hawthorne: A Biography (1980)
Gloria Erlich, Family Themes in Hawthorne (1984)
Edwin Haviland Miller, Salem is My Dwelling Place: A Life of Nathaniel Hawthorne (1991)
T. Walter Herbert, Dearest Beloved: The Hawthornes and the Making of the Middle-Class Family (1993)
Brenda Wineapple, A Life of Hawthorne (2003)
Megan Marshall, The Peabody Sisters (2005)

Critical Studies

Henry James, Hawthorne (1879) D. H. Lawrence, Studies in Classic American Literature (1923) F. O. Matthiessen, American Renaissance (1941) Mark Van Doren, *Nathaniel Hawthorne* (1949) Roy R. Male, Hawthorne's Tragic Vision (1957) Millicent Bell, Hawthorne's View of the Artist (1962) Richard Harter Fogle, Hawthorne's Fiction: The Light and the Dark (Revised Edition, 1964) Leslie A. Fiedler, Love and Death in the American Novel (Revised Edition, 1966) Frederick Crews, The Sins of the Fathers: Hawthorne's Psychological Themes (1966) Jean Normand, Nathaniel Hawthorne: An Approach to an Analysis of Artistic Creation (1970) Hyatt H. Waggoner, Hawthorne: A Critical Study (Revised Edition, 1971) Michael Davitt Bell, Hawthorne and the Historical Romance of New England (1971) Nina Baym, The Shape of Hawthorne's Career (1976) Richard H. Brodhead, Hawthorne, Melville, and the Novel (1976) Michaewl Davitt Bell, The Development of American Romance: The Sacrifice of Realism (1980) Michael J. Colacurcio, The Province of Piety: Moral History in Hawthorne's Early Tales (1984) Frederick Newberry, Hawthorne's Divided Loyalties: England and America in His Works (1987) Gordon Hutner, Secrets and Sympathy: Forms of Discourse in Hawthorne's Novels (1988) David S. Reynolds, Beneath the American Renaissance: The Subversive Imagination in the Age... (1988) David Leverenz, Manhood and the American Renaissance 1989) Luther S. Luedtke, Nathaniel Hawthorne and the Romance of the Orient (1989) Sacvan Bercovitch, The Office of The Scarlet Letter (1991) Richard H. Millington, Practicing Romance: Narrative Form... in Hawthorne's Fiction (1992)

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Herbert Wallace Schneider, *The Puritan Mind* (1930)
Perry Miller, *The New England Mind*, 2 vos; *Errand Into the Wilderness* (1956)
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John Putnam Demos, *Entertaining Satan: Witchcraft and the Culture of Early New England* (1982)
Roger Thompson, *Sex in Middlesex: Popular Mores in a Massachusetts County...* (1986)
Janice Knight, *Orthodoxies in Massachusetts: Rereading American Puritanism* (1994)
Darren Staloff, *The Making of an American Thinking Class: Intellectuals...in...Massachusetts* (1998)
Mary Beth Norton, *In the Devil's Snare: The Salem Witchcraft Crisis of 1692* (2002)
John Demos, *The Enemy Within...Witch-Hunting in the Western World* (2008)

Gore Vidal's Burr and the Founding Fathers

David Kaplan, Gore Vidal Gore Vidal, Palimpset; United States: Essays 1952-1992 Gore Vidal, Inventing a Nation: Washington, Adams, Jefferson Jay Parini, ed., Gore Vidal: Writer Against the Grain Robert J. Stanton and Gore Vidal, eds., Views from a Window: Conversations with Gore Vidal Bernard F. Dick, The Apostate Angel: A Critical Study of Gore Vidal Robert Kiernan, Gore Vidal Charles J. Nolan, Jr., Aaron Burr and the American Literary Imagination

The Age of Aaron Burr

Thomas Perkins Abernathy, The Burr Conspiracy Henry Adams, History of the United States During the Administration of Thomas Jefferson Bernard Bailyn, The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution William K. Bixby, ed., The Private Journal of Aaron Burr, 2 vols Irving Brant, James Madison: Father of the Constitution Fawn Brodie, Thomas Jefferson: An Intimate History Richard Brookhiser, Alexander Hamilton: American Eric Burns, Infamous Scribblers: The Founding Fathers and the Rowdy Beginnings of American Journalism Andrew Burstein, The Passions of Andrew Jackson; Jefferson's Secrets: Death and Desire at Monticello James Thomson Callender, The History of the United States for 1796; The Prospect Before Us, 2 vols Ron Chernow, Alexander Hamilton Donald B. Cole, Martin Van Buren and the American Political System Matthew Livingston Davis, ed., The Memoirs of Aaron Burr, 2 vols Matthew Livingston Davis, ed., The Private Journal of Aaron Burr, 2 vols Joseph J. Ellis, Passionate Sage: The Legacy and Character of John Adams Joseph J. Ellis, American Sphinx: The Character of Thomas Jefferson Joseph J. Ellis, His Excellency: George Washington Joseph J. Ellis, Founding Brothers; American Creation: Triumph and Tragedies at the Founding... John Ferling, John Adams: A Life; A Leap in the Dark: The Struggle to Create the American Republic John Ferling, Adams v. Jefferson: The Tumultuous Election of 1800 James Thomas Flexner, George Washington, 3 vols Joanne Freeman, Affairs of Honor Annette Gordon-Reed, Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: An American Controversy Walter Isaacson, Benjamin Franklin: An American Life Nancy Isenberg, Fallen Founder: The Life of Aaron Burr (2007) ***The most recent scholarly study Roger Kennedy, Burr, Hamilton, and Jefferson: A Study of Character Milton Lomax, Aaron Burr, 2 vols. Clara Anna Lyons, Sex Among the Rabble...Gender and Power in the Age of Revolution ... Pauline Maier. American Scripture Dumas Malone, Jefferson, 5 vols Buckner F. Melton, Jr., Aaron Burr: Conspiracy to Treason John C. Miller, The Federalist Era, 1789-1801 Gary B. Nash, The Unknown American Revolution John Niven, Martin Van Buren: The Romantic Age of American Politics James Parton, The Life and Times of Aaron Burr, 2 vols. Merrill D. Peterson, Thomas Jefferson and the New Nation Arnold Rogow, A Fatal Friendship: Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr James R. Sharp, American Politics in the Early Republic: The New Nation in Crisis Margaret Bayard Smith, The First Forty Years of Washington Society Joseph Whelan, Jefferson's Vendetta: The Pursuit of Aaron Burr in the Judiciary Samuel H. Wandell, Aaron Burr in Literature Bernard A. Weisberger, America Afire: Jefferson, Adams, and the Revolutionary Election of 1800 Garry Wills, Inventing America; Gordon Wood, Revolutionary Characters; The Americanization of Benjamin Franklin

William Heath's Blacksnake's Path and the Frontier World of William Wells, 1780 - 1812

Richard White, The Middle Ground: Indians, Empires, and Republics in the Great Lakes Region, 1650 – 1815 *** The best historical overview of the period Douglas R. Hurt, The Indian Frontier 1763 - 1846 David Curtis Skaggs and Larry L. Nelson, eds., The Sixty Years' War for the Great Lakes, 1754-1814 Paul A. Hutton, "William Wells: Frontier Scout and Indian Agent," Indiana Magazine of History (1978): 184-220. Harry Lewis Carter, The Life and Times of Little Turtle C. F. Volney, A View of the Soil and Climate of the United States (an interview with Wells and Little Turtle) Andrew R. L. Cayton, Frontier Indiana Paula Woehrmann, At the Headwaters of the Maumee Gayle Thornbrough, ed., Outpost on the Wabash R. E. Banta, The Ohio George H. Yater, Two Hundreds Years at the Falls of the Ohio James Smith. Scoouwa Oliver Spencer, The Indian Captivity of Oliver Spencer John Tanner, The Falcon Frederick Drimmer, ed., Captured by the Indians C. C. Throwbridge, Meearmeear Traditions Hiram Beckwith, ed., The Fort Wayne Manuscript Bert Anson, The Miami Indians Stewart Rafert, The Miami Indians of Indiana John Piatt Dunn, True Indian Stories Chief Clarence Godfroy, Miami Indian Stories Colin G. Calloway, The American Revolution in Indian Country Alan Taylor, The Divided Ground: Indians, Settlers, and the Northern Borderland of the Revolution Wiley Sword, President Washington's Indian War John Grenier, The First Way of War: American War Making on the Frontier William Denny, ed., Military Journal of Major Ebenezer Denny William H. Guthman. March to Massacre Paul. A. W. Wallace, ed., The Travels of John Heckewelder in Frontier America John Heckewelder, History, Manners, and Customs of the Indian Nations Alan D. Gaff, Bayonetes in the Wilderness Richard C. Knopf, ed., Anthony Wayne: A Name in Arms James Ripley Jacobs, Tarnished Warrior: Major-General James Wilkinson Larry I. Nelson, A Man of Distinction Among Them Reginald Horsman, Matthew Elliott Robert S. Allen, His Majesties Indian Allies Jessic Bridenbaugh, Rebels and Gentlemen: Philadelphia in the Age of Franklin Anne Hollingsworth Wharton, Social Life in the Early Republic Eugene L. Didier, The Life and Letters of Madame Bonapart David Stacton, The Bonaparts Bernard Sheehan, Seeds of Extinction: Jefferson's Philanthropy and the American Indian Anthony Wallace, Jefferson and the Indians: the Tragic Fate of the First Americans Robert M. Owens, Mr. Jefferson's Hammer: William Henry Harrison and the Origins of American Indian Policy Freeman Cleaves, Old Tippecanoe: William Henry Harrison and His Time John Sugden, Tecumseh; Blue Jacket Bil Gilbert, God Gave Us This Country R. David Edmunds, Tecumseh and the Quest for Indian Leadership; The Shawnee Prophet R. David Edmunds, *Potawatomie: Keepers of the Fire* James H. Howard, Shawnee Allan W. Eckert, A Sorrow in the Heart; Gateway to Empire James Alexander Thom, Panther in the Sky Milo M. Quaife, Chicago and the Old Northwest, 1673-1835 Mrs. John H. Kinzie. Wau-Bun Jerry Crimmins, Fort Dearborn Dale Van Every, Arc of Empire Michael Paul Rogin, Fathers and Children: Andrew Jackson and the Subjugation of the American Indian Robert V. Remini, Andrew Jackson and the Course of American Empire, 1767 - 1821

William Faulkner's Absalom, Absalom and Southern History

Melvin Backman, Faulkner: The Major Years John Bassett, ed. William Faulkner: The Critical Heritage Andre Bleikasten, The Ink of Melancholy: Faulkner's Novels from The Sound and the Fury to Light in August Harold Bloom, ed., Modern Critical Views: William Faulkner Harold Bloom, ed., William Faulkner's Absalom, Absalom Joseph Leo Blotner, Faulkner: A Biography Joseph Leo Blotner, ed., Selected Letters of William Faulkner Richard Brodhead, ed., Faulkner: New Perspectives Cleanth Brooks, The Yoknapatawpha Country; Toward Yoknapatawpha and Beyond Thadious Davis, Faulkner's "Negro": Art and the Southern Context John Faulkner, My Brother Bill Richard Gray, The Life of William Faulkner: A Critical Biography Albert Guerard, The Triumph of the Novel: Dickens, Dostoevsky, Faulkner Fredereick L Gwynn and Joseph L. Blotner, eds., Faulkner in the University Fred Hobson, ed., William Faulkner's Absalom, Absalom: A Casebook Irving Howe, William Faulkner: A Critical Study John T. Irwin, Doubling and Incest/Repetition and Revenge: A Speculative Reading of Faulkner Myra Jehlen, Class and Character in Faulkner's South Donald M. Kartiganer, The Fragile Thread: The Meaning of Form in Faulkner's Novels Gerald Langford, Faulkner's Revision of Absalom, Absalom John Lewis Longley, The Tragic Mask: A Study of Faulkner's Heroes John Matthews, The Play of Faulkner's Language James B. Meriwether and Michael Millgate, eds., Lion in the Garden: Interviews with William Faulkner Michael Millgate, The Achievement of William Faulkner David Minter, William Faulkner, the Writing of a Life Richard Moreland, Faulkner and Modernism Gail L. Mortimer, Faulkner's Rhetoric of Loss Daniel Joseph Singal, William Faulkner: The Making of a Modernism Walter J. Slatoff, *Quest for Failure: A Study of William Faulkner* Eric J. Sundquist, Faulkner: The House Divided Olga Vickery, The Novels of William Faulkner Linda Wagner, ed., Four Decades of Faulkner Criticism Robert Penn Warren, ed., Faulkner: A Collection of Critical Essavs Ben Wasson, Count-no-Count: Flashbacks to Faulkner James G. Watson, William Faulkner: Self-Preservation and Performance Meta Carpenter Wilde, A Loving Gentleman: The Love Story of William Faulkner and Meta Carpenter David L. Williams, Faulkner's Women: The Myth and the Muse Joel Williamson, William Faulkner and Southern History David Wyatt, Prodigal Sons: A Study of Authorship and Authority

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Thomas Berger's Little Big Man

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Michael Shaara's The Killer Angels and Joshua Chamberlain

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Edith Wharton, The Age of Innocence, and Old New York

Elizabeth Ammons, Edith Wharton's Argument with America Louis Auchincloss, Edith Wharton: A Woman in Her Time; The Vanderbilt Era E. W. Barnes, The Man Who Lived Twice: The Biography of Edward Sheldon Dale Bauer, Edith Wharton's Brave New Politics Sven Beckert, The Monied Metropolis: New York City and the Consolidation of the American Bourgeois Janet Beer, Edith Wharton Millicent Bell, Edith Wharton and Henry James Alfred Bendixen and Annette Zilversmit, eds., Edith Wharton: New Critical Essays Shari Benstock, No Gifts from Chance: A Biography of Edith Wharton Nancy Bentley, The Ethnography of Manners: Hawthorne, James, Wharton David Black, The King of Fifth Avenue: The Fortunes of August Belmont Richard Bushman, The Refinement of America: Persons, Houses, Cities David Castronovo, The American Gentleman: Social Prestige and the Modern Literary Mind Theresa Craig, Edith Wharton: A House Full of Rooms George Dekker, The American Historical Romance Eleanor Dwight, Edith Wharton: An Extraordinary Life Leon Edel, Henry James, 5 vols. Norbert Elias, The Civilizing Process: The History of Manners and State Formantion and Civilization Gloria Erlich, The Sexual Education of Edith Wharton Judith Fryer, Felicitous Space: The Imaginative Structures of Edith Wharton and Willa Cather Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar, Sexchanges Timothy J. Gilfoyle, City of Eros: New York City, Prostitution and the Commercialization of Sex Eric Homberger, Mrs. Astor's New York; Scenes from the Life of a City: Corruption ... in Old New York Henry James, The American Scene Fred Kaplan, Henry James John F. Kasson, Rudeness & Civility: Manners in Nineteenth-Century Urban America Hermione Lee, Edith Wharton *** The most recent scholarly biography Gustav Lening, The Dark Side of New York Life ... Lawrence W. Levine, Highbrow/Lowbrow: The Emergence of Cultural Hierarchy in America R. W. B. Lewis, *Edith Wharton: A Biography* Gary Lindberg, Edith Wharton and the Novel of Manners Percy Lubbock, Portrait of Edith Wharton Marion Mainwaring, Mysteries of Paris: The Quest for Morton Fullerton Frederick Towsend Martin, The Passing of the Idle Rich Ward McAllister, Society as I Have Found It Maureen E. Montgomery, Displaying Women: Spectacles of Leisure in Edith Wharton's New York Lloyd Morris, Incredible New York Allan Nevins, ed., The Diary of Philip Hone 1828 - 1851 Blake Nevius, Edith Wharton: A Study of Her Fiction Richard O'Connor, The Golden Summers: An Antic History of Newport; Gould's Milliions Claire Preston, Edith Wharton's Social Register Alan Price, The End of the Age of Innocence: Edith Wharton and the First World War Jacob A. Riis, How the Other Half Lives Carol J. Singley, Edith Wharton: Matters of Mind and Spirit Amanda Mackenzie Stuart, Consuelo & Alva: Love and Power in the Gilded Age Thomas de Witt Talmage, The Night Side of New York Adeline R. Tintner, Edith Wharton in Context Thorstein Veblen, Theory of the Leisure Class Linda Wagner-Martin, "The Age of Innocence": A Novel of Ironic Nostalgia Altina L. Waller, Reverend Beecher and Mrs. Tilton: Sex and Class in Victorian America Dixon Wecter, The Sage of America Society: A Record of Social Aspiration 1607 - 1937 Edith Wharton, French Ways and Their Meaning; A Backward Glance; Old New York Edith Wharton, "A Little Girl's New York," Harper's Monthly Magazine 176 (March 1938): 356-360. Cynthia Griffin Wolff, A Feast of Words: The Triumph of Edith Wharton ***The best critical study Sarah Bird Wright, Edith Wharton Abroad