ENGL 720 Studies in Major Authors: Louisa May Alcott and Mark Twain  
Gregory Eiselein | Spring 2005

Texts

The following texts are available for purchase at The Dusty Bookshelf:

Louisa May Alcott
Little Women (Norton)  
Little Men (Signet)  
Eight Cousins (Puffin)  
Alternative Alcott (Rutgers UP)

Mark Twain
Innocents Abroad (Penguin)  
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (U of California P)  
Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (Norton)  
Pudd'nhead Wilson and Those Extraordinary Twins (Norton)  
Selected Shorter Writings of Mark Twain (Houghton Mifflin)

The required reading for this course also includes several recent critical articles available from the Hale Library databases. These articles appear below; the citation information is followed by the name [in square brackets] of the database in which the article appears: Literature Resource Center, Project Muse, or JSTOR.

Schedule

Beginnings

Jan 12 W  INTRODUCTIONS

Jan 14 F  Alcott, "My Contraband" (1863), in Alternative Alcott, 74-93  


Jan 17 M  NO CLASS. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY
Jan 19 W  Twain, Apprentice Writings (1852-67), in *Selected Shorter Writings of Mark Twain*, 1-37


**Alcott's Early Dark Period**

Jan 21 F  Alcott, "Behind a Mask; or, A Woman's Power" (1866), in *Alternative Alcott*, 97-158

Jan 24 M  Alcott, "Behind a Mask," 159-202


**Rise to Fame and Nonfiction Sketches**

Jan 26 W  Alcott, *Hospital Sketches* (1863), in *Alternative Alcott*, 3-61

Jan 28 F  Alcott, *Hospital Sketches*, 62-73


Jan 31 M  Twain, *Innocents Abroad* (1869), 1-107

Feb 2  W  Twain, *Innocents Abroad*, 108-206

Feb 4  F  Twain, *Innocents Abroad*, 207-309

Feb 7  M  Twain, *Innocents Abroad*, 310-415

**Field Trip #1:** Tour the Louisa May Alcott Collection in Special Collections at Hale Library. Meet in the fifth floor foyer, outside the Hemisphere Room and Special Collections at 9:25 a.m.

Feb 9  W  Twain, *Innocents Abroad*, 416-500

Feb 11 F  Twain, *Innocents Abroad* (continued)

Literature and Art

Feb 14 M  Alcott, "Happy Women" (1868), "Psyche's Art" (1868), and "The Sunny Side" (1870), in Alternative Alcott, 203-35

Twain, Literary Essays (1890-1895), in Selected Shorter Writings of Mark Twain, 225-43

Gender, Class, Race, and Society

Feb 16 W  Alcott, Eight Cousins; or, The Aunt-Hill (1875), 1-131

Feb 18 F  Alcott, Eight Cousins, 132-259

Feb 21 M  Alcott, Eight Cousins, 259-99

Field Trip #2: Tour the Microforms Collection at Hale Library. Meet in the Microforms Department on the second floor of Hale Library at 9:25 a.m.

Feb 23 W  Alcott, Eight Cousins (continued)

Henry James, Rev. of Eight Cousins; or, The Aunt-Hill, The Nation 14 Oct. 1875: 250-51. [Literature Resource Center]

Twain, Pudd’nhead Wilson (1894), in Pudd’nhead Wilson and Those Extraordinary Twins, 1-62

Feb 25 F  Twain, Pudd’nhead Wilson, 62-122

Feb 26 Sa Field Trip #3: Attend the Ebony Theatre production of Pudd’nhead Wilson in the Purple Masque Theatre on Saturday, February 26th at 8:00 p.m. Pick up and pay for your ticket at the McCain Box Office (open Mon-Fri, 12:00-5:00) by Friday, February 11th. If you do not pick up your ticket by February 11th, it will be released for sale to the general public.

Feb 28 M  Twain, Those Extraordinary Twins (1894), in Pudd’nhead Wilson and Those Extraordinary Twins, 125-85


Classic Works

Mar 4  F  Alcott, *Little Women* (1868-69), 5-91

**Field Trip #4 (Optional):** Attend the Kansas City Repertory Theatre production of *Little Women*, March 4 to March 27. To find a performance on a day/time that suits your schedule, to buy tickets, and to get directions to the theatre (its near the Country Club Plaza in Kansas City), go to http://www.missourireptheatre.org/.

Mar 7  M  Alcott, *Little Women*, 92-186


Mar 11  F  Alcott, *Little Women*, 283-380

**Field Trip #5:** Attend the Cultural Studies Conference—"Visual Culture: Image, Imagination, Ideology"—at the K-State Student Union. We will not meet in class on this day. Instead, choose part of the conference to attend. The conference runs from March 10-12. I'll distribute a conference program/schedule to everyone a few days before the conference begins.

Mar 14  M  Angela M. Estes and Kathleen Margaret Lant, "Dismembering the Text: The Horror of Louisa May Alcott's Little Women," in *Little Women*, 564-83


Mar 16  W  Alcott, *Little Men* (1871), 7-136

Mar 18  F  Alcott, *Little Men*: *Life at Plumfield with Jo's Boy's* (1871), 137-276

**SUMMARY AND RESPONSE PAPER DUE**

Mar 21  M  NO CLASS. SPRING BREAK

Mar 23  W  NO CLASS. SPRING BREAK

Mar 25  F  NO CLASS. SPRING BREAK

Mar 28  M  Alcott, *Little Men* (1871), 277-329

Mar 30 W Twain, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876), 1-85

Apr 1 F Twain, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, 86-172

**Field Trip #6:** Head to the library for the class's RESEARCH DAY. We will not meet in class. Instead, each of you should use this time to work on your final critical research paper.

Apr 4 M Twain, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, 173-260

**FINAL PAPER PROPOSALS DUE**


Apr 8 F Twain, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1885), 13-95

Apr 11 M Twain, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, 96-176

**FIRST DRAFTS DUE (OPTIONAL)**

Apr 13 W Twain, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, 177-274

Apr 15 F Twain, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, 275-96

"Contexts and Sources" and "Early Responses," in *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, 299-336

Apr 18 M "Modern Responses," in *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, 337-92

**FIRST DRAFTS RETURNED**

**Autobiographies**

Apr 20 W Alcott, "Recollections of My Childhood" (1888), in *Little Women*, 428-33

Alcott, "How I Went Out to Service" (1874) and "Transcendental Wild Oats" (1874), in *Alternative Alcott*, 350-80

Alcott, "Jo's Last Scrape" from *Jo's Boys* (1886), in *Alternative Alcott*, 442-55

Apr 22 F Twain, "Old Times on the Mississippi" (1875), in *Selected Shorter Writings of Mark Twain*, 64-130

Apr 25 M IN-CLASS WRITING WORKSHOP

Twain, "The Private History of a Campaign That Failed" (1885), in *Selected Shorter Writings of Mark Twain*, 206-223

**Twain's Late Dark Period**

Apr 29 F Twain, "The Man That Corrupted Hadleyburg" (1899), in *Selected Shorter Writings of Mark Twain*, 245-289

May 2 M Twain, "The Mysterious Stranger (1916), in *Selected Shorter Writings of Mark Twain*, 306-44

**Final Papers Due**

May 4 W Twain, "The Mysterious Stranger," 344-88

**Endings**

May 6 F CONCLUSIONS

May 9 M **Final Examination** (11:50 A.M. TO 1:40 P.M.)