

Reading & Assignments Schedule

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

Madeleine B. Stern, "Louisa May Alcott," *Dictionary of Literary Biography, Volume 223: The American Renaissance in New England, Second Series*, Ed. Wesley T. Mott (Detroit: Gale Group, 2000) 29-45. [Literature Resource Center]

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

Hamlin Hill, "Samuel Langhorne Clemens," *Dictionary of Literary Biography, Volume 12: American Realists and Naturalists*, Ed. Donald Pizer (Detroit: Gale Group, 1982) 71-94. [Literature Resource Center]

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

Elizabeth Lennox Keyser, "The Second Sex: *Behind a Mask or a Woman's Power*," *Whispers in the Dark: The Fiction of Louisa May Alcott* (Knoxville: U of Tennessee P, 1993) 46-57. [Literature Resource Center]

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

Elizabeth Young, "A Wound of One's Own: Louisa May Alcott's Civil War Fiction," *American Quarterly* 48 (1996): 439-474. [Project Muse]

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)

Sander L. Gilman, "Mark Twain and the Diseases of the Jews," *American Literature* 65 (1993): 95-115. [JSTOR]

Literature and Art

Feb 14M 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 16W Alcott, *Eight Cousins; or, The Aunt-Hill* (1875), 1-131

Feb 18F 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 23W 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 25F 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 28M Twain, *Those Extraordinary Twins* (1894), in *Pudd'nhead Wilson and Those Extraordinary Twins*, 125-85

Mar 2 W Myra Jehlen, "The Ties That Bind: Race and Sex in *Pudd'nhead Wilson*" (1990) in *Pudd'nhead Wilson and Those Extraordinary Twins*, 411-26

Susan Gillman, "'Sure Identifiers': Race, Science, and the Law in *Pudd'nhead Wilson*" (1990), in *Pudd'nhead Wilson and Those Extraordinary Twins*, 445-464

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 9 W Alcott, *Little Women*, 187-283

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

Barbara Sicherman, "Reading *Little Women*: The Many Lives of a Text," in *Little Women*, 632-57

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

Beverly Lyon Clark, "Domesticating the School Story, Regendering a Genre: Alcott's *Little Men*," *New Literary History* 26 (1995): 323-342. [Project Muse]

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 6 W Gillian Brown, "Child's Play," *differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies* 11 (1999): 76-106. [Project Muse]

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

Apr 27 W Edgar Marquess Branch, "Old Times on the Mississippi': Biography and Craftsmanship," *Nineteenth-Century Literature* 45 (1990): 73-87. [JSTOR]

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.)