Authors & Contents 2nd Semester
Study Block II

- Romanticism (part II)
  - Nathaniel Hawthorne - Feb 19th
  - Herman Melville - Feb 26th
  - Henry Wadsworth Longfellow - Mar 11th
  - Edgar Allan Poe - Mar 4th
  - Frederick Douglass - Apr 1st
  - Harriet Beecher Stowe - Apr 15th
  - Walt Whitman - Mar 18th
  - Emily Dickinson - Mar 25th

- Realism and Naturalism
  - Mark Twain (Samuel L. Clemens) - Apr 22nd
  - Henry James - Apr 29th
  - Kate Chopin - May 6th
  - Stephen Crane - May 13th

- Review past exams - May 20th
Persons attempting to find a motive in this narrative will be prosecuted

Samuel L. Clemens, a.k.a. Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)

- Biography
- Works by author
- Online resources
- Q&A
Objectives of the Unit

- **Learn** about American Literary Realism by focusing on Mark Twain
- **Observe** how Mark Twain granted extraordinary importance to oral usage, above English grammar anticipating modern American literature
- **Analyze** Twain’s use of satire to expose flaws of decadent civilization and point out the vices of American society
- **Examine** The Adventures of Tom Sawyer and its sequel The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, two provocative novels that wittingly satirized the then-current ‘model boy’ genre
- **Devote** attention to Twain’s treatment of morality, language, race relations and slavery
- **Scrutinize** The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, concentrating on its caustic indictment of Southern society, well drawn characterization, accurate representation of spoken language, quest for freedom, the symbolic role of the Mississippi River, and the relationship of Huck with the runaway slave Jim
Biography

- Born in 1835 in Hannibal, Missouri according to some biographies, in Florida Missouri according to others.
- His father died when he was only 12, forcing the family to endure hardship and eventually leading young Mark to find a job at the age 15 with his brother.
- He began an apprenticeship on a riverboat at the age of 21, he was a fully licensed pilot two years after. He recalled it “the best time of my life”.
- One of his brothers died while apprenticing as a pilot and out of guilt for encouraging him to pursue that career, he abandons the trade during the Civil War in 1861 and briefly served in the Confederate military.
- He headed west to San Francisco.
- At the age of 30 he publishes his first short story “Jim Smiley and His Jumping Frog” (1865) which makes him very popular and achieve a status as a writer.
- He published his three most famous novels *The Gilded Age* (1873), *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876) and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884) over the span of 12 years (the third being his greatest work).
- A huge worldwide celebrity during the last 15 years of his life.
Works of Mark Twain

- One of the most influential writers in American Literature. He continues to influence writers
- His restless life coming and going between Philadelphia, New York and Washington, his early childhood near the Mississippi river, his earlier jobs as a printer to help his family or aboard a riverboat, his job as a satiric journalist were all a perfect milieu for making him the writer of wit, satire and precise observation he became

  - *The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County and other Sketches* (1867) a compilation of short stories

- His travel books: *Innocents Abroad* (1869), *Roughing It* (1872), *A Tramp Abroad* (1880), *Life on the Mississippi* (1883) and *Following the Equator* (1897)

- *The Gilded Age* (1873) was his first novel written in collaboration with neighbor Charles Dudley

- *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876) was vaguely set in 1844 and had hints of autobiographic influence.

- Its sequel surpassed the success of the first part (and practically any other book in American literature! ): *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884)

- *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court* (1889) experimented with time travel and dream narratives. His last major novel was *Pudd’nhead Wilson* (1894)
American Realism I (Description)

- The term "realism" encompasses the period of time from the Civil War (1861-1865) to the turn of the century.

- Some relevant writers from this movement: Henry James, and Mark Twain.

- Intentionally seek an accurate representation and an exploration of American lives in various contexts.

- Realism was a movement that encompassed the entire country, or at least the Midwest and South.
American Realism II (Features)

- Renders reality closely and in comprehensive detail
- Character is more important than action and plot; complex ethical choices are often the subject.
- Characters appear in their real complexity of temperament and motive
- Class is important
- Events will usually be plausible. Realistic novels avoid the sensational, dramatic elements of naturalistic novels and romances.
- Diction is natural vernacular, not heightened or poetic; tone may be comic, satiric, or matter-of-fact.
- Objectivity in presentation becomes increasingly important
- Interior or psychological realism a variant form.
- Basic difference between realism and sentimentalism is that in realism, "the redemption of the individual lay within the social world," but in sentimental fiction, "the redemption of the social world lay with the individual"
Online Resources for Mark Twain

- **New Essays** on The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
- Mark Twain, “Huckleberry Finn” and the N-word (60 minutes)
- “Huck Finn in Context: A Teaching Guide.” Although this guide is intended for secondary school teachers, it is extremely useful for the study of *Huckleberry Finn* (“Culture Shock Series,” made available by PBS).
  

- Audio of Huckleberry Finn
  

- Mark Twain on LION (Proquest Literature Online)

- Resources and Links suggested in the Curso Vitual
Remember to complete Self-Evaluation & Exploratory Questions from the Book Online Self Evaluation Quiz

Questions?
Thank you