

English 741

ENGL 741, Michael Germana, Fall 2007

English 741: Seminar in American Studies: Nineteenth Century American Literary Magazines

Dr. Michael Germana

Fall 2007

Meets: 7:00-9:50 p.m. Tuesdays in 48 Stansbury Hall

Office Hours: 1:30-2:30 + 3:45-4:15 T, H and by appointment

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Course Description:

A literary history of American magazines and an historical overview of the social and cultural forces that transformed the literary marketplace, this course takes a wide purview in its approach to American magazines. Beginning with the republican periodicals of the late eighteenth century and ending with pulp magazines of the early twentieth century (themselves products of the "magazine revolution" of the 1890s), this course will hone our primary researching skills while providing an overview of recent critical approaches to the study of American magazines. During the semester we will recontextualize canonical authors like Herman Melville, Edgar Allen Poe, and Walt Whitman, who published their work in magazines like *Putnam's*, *Godey's Lady's Book*, and *The United States Democratic Review*, and examine how writers like Lydia Maria Child, Constance Fenimore Woolson, and Charles Chesnutt found their niches in an evolving magazine marketplace. We will also view magazines in the historical, cultural, and social contexts they engaged in dialectical commerce, and illustrate how they articulated abolitionist ideology, participated in Reconstruction, gave rise to mass culture, and much more.

Each member of the class will lead one class discussion, craft three short response papers based upon independent primary research, and write a 20-25 page seminar paper of publishable quality, an abstract of which is due November 6.

Required Texts:

- Martin R. Delany, *Blake or The Huts of America*
- Kathleen Diffley, *To Live and Die: Collected Stories of the Civil War, 1861-1876*
- Richard Ohmann, *Selling Culture: Magazines, Markets, and Class at the Turn of the Century*
- Sue Rainey, *Creating Picturesque America: Monument to the Natural and Cultural Landscape*
- Erin Smith, *Hard-Boiled: Working-Class Readers and Pulp Magazines*

On Reserve (Access Services Desk, Downtown Library):

- Harper's Weekly vols. 5-9 (1861-1865) (AP2.H32) [note: the original volumes have been requested out of storage, but their condition makes use of the microfilm (also available) recommended]
- Richard H. Brodhead, *Cultures of Letters: Scenes of Reading and Writing in Nineteenth-Century America* (PS201.B68 1993)
- Kathleen Diffley, *Where My Heart Is Tuning Ever: Civil War Stories and Constitutional Reform, 1861-1876* (PS217.C58W48 1992)
- Ezra Greenspan, *George Palmer Putnam: Representative American Publisher* (Z473.P95 G74 2000)
- Mark L. Kamrath and Sharon M. Harris, Eds., *Periodical Literature in Eighteenth-Century America* (PS193.P47 2005)
- Frank Luther Mott, *History of American Periodicals vols. I-V* (PN4877.M63 1930)
 - o Volume I: 1741-1850
 - o Volume II: 1850-1865
 - o Volume III: 1865-1885
 - o Volume IV: 1885-1905
 - o Volume V: 1905-1930
- David Paul Nord, *Communities of Journalism: A History of American Newspapers and Their Readers* (PN4855.N67 2001)
- Patricia Okker, *Our Sister Editors: Sarah J. Hale and the Tradition of Nineteenth-Century American Women Editors* (PS1774.H2 Z83 1995)
- Kenneth M. Price and Susan Belasco Smith, Eds., *Periodical Literature in Nineteenth-Century America* (PS201.P38 1995)
- Shirley Samuels, Ed., *The Culture of Sentiment: Race, Gender and Sentimentality in Nineteenth-Century America* (PS217.S55 C85 1992)

Online Resources:

- American Periodicals Series Online (APS): <http://www.libraries.wvu.edu/databases/> > APS Online
- Making of America at Cornell (MOA-Cornell): <http://cdl.library.cornell.edu/moa/>
- Making of America at Michigan (MOA-Michigan): <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/moagr/>
- Research Society for American Periodicals: Resources for Research: <http://home.earthlink.net/%7ellengarvey/rsapresource1.html>
- Readings marked "ereserve" are available in .pdf format at <http://ereserves.lib.wvu.edu/> (Professor's Username: **germana**, Professor's Password: **460**)

Discussion Leading:

Starting September 11, each seminar participant will lead discussion for a significant part of one class meeting. To prepare for this, the designated discussion leader should independently research a handful of primary and scholarly texts related to the required reading for the day. He or she should then prepare a list of discussion questions that invite others to discuss the required reading, the newly introduced material, and possible connections between them. Had a discussion leader been assigned for the day we discuss late-eighteenth-century American periodicals, for instance, he or she might have examined another eighteenth-century periodical

besides the *New-York Magazine* and the *Columbian Magazine* (say, the *Massachusetts Magazine*, available via APS) and at least one other secondary source on this particular magazine, a subject related to this periodical, or eighteenth-century periodicals in general. Newly discovered materials can challenge assumptions of the course reading or compliment them. In either case, the information you provide to the class and the questions you choose to pose should help define the contours of the texts we are studying. Discussion leaders should also provide handouts with useful and/or thought-provoking material from their research that can further enhance the critical conversation.

Research Journal Entries:

On three occasions during the semester you will submit a 4-5 page short essay that chronicles, compiles, and summarizes your independent primary periodical research. The first of these will be evaluated with written comments but will not be given a letter grade. This gives you the opportunity to test the proverbial waters and gauge my expectations, and it gives me the chance to get an advanced preview of your work. These investigations may begin with nagging questions that emerge from class discussions (e.g., What other magazine stories did Walt Whitman publish, and how are these stories informed by their periodical contexts? or, Were many Southern magazines edited by women, and if so, how did they differ from their Northern counterparts?) Your immediate goal is to collect 3-5 stories, poems, illustrations, editorials, etc. you can use to launch your speculations.

When you're ready to write, you may find it useful to divide your entries into three sections. The first section (approximately one page) should detail the broad question/s you chose to consider, describe the magazine/s you chose to examine, and supply relevant publication information about these periodicals while recording the procedures you followed. The second section (another page or two) is the place to describe in some detail what you found in your research and to make preliminary connections between the entries you collected. The third and final section of your journal entry should apply what you found in your research to the primary and/or scholarly texts we read for that day. This is the place to make venturesome claims that can be more thoroughly investigated in your seminar paper, if you so choose. The goal here is not to definitively answer a question but to provocatively raise one that could be more comprehensively answered in a 20-25 page paper. In fact, every research journal entry you write for this class should end with a point-blank declaration of a question your research led you to formulate. Due dates for these journal entries are marked on the calendar by asterisks. On the due dates, class members will present their findings to the rest of the class.

Two important notes: First, while these entries, which can be written with some degree of informality, can be used to work through or generate ideas you can later develop in your seminar paper, you are not bound to your previous journal entries when crafting your seminar paper. Second, although assistance has been provided for those who wish to examine topics more closely related to the material being covered on the due dates, you are free to conduct research related to any of the texts or topics we will have covered since the previous research journal due date (i.e., you don't have to research Civil War periodicals if you'd rather write about the antebellum black press, which we will have covered the previous week, instead).

Seminar Paper:

As the culmination of your work for the semester, your seminar paper will be an expertly argued and exhaustively researched essay of 20-25 pages. The seminar paper should display mastery of the text/s being engaged and the criticism that surrounds it while offering an original interpretation of a topic related to American periodicals. You may choose to expand an earlier short essay or develop an idea generated by your class discussion leading, but you may not resubmit an essay originally written for another class, conference, or journal. Aside from these requirements, the topic, methodology, and objective of the seminar paper are all open. I strongly encourage you to discuss your plans for your paper with me as they evolve. Seminar paper drafts will be peer-critiqued during the final three weeks of the semester. The seminar paper is due in my mailbox in the English Department office on or before Tuesday, December 11.

Attendance and Participation:

Because this is a graduate seminar your presence and active participation are expected. Except in rare cases under extraordinary circumstances absences will have a profoundly negative impact upon final grades.

Grade Distribution:

Research journal entries: 2 @ 10% (with a third, the first to be submitted, ungraded)

Participation/Discussion leading: 30%

Seminar paper: 50%

Social Justice Statement:

West Virginia University is committed to social justice. I concur with that commitment and expect to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. Our University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veterans status, religion, sexual orientation, color or national origin. Any suggestions as to how to further such a positive and open environment in this class will be appreciated and given serious consideration.

If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with the Office of Disability Services (293-6700).

Course Calendar:

August 21:

Introduction/s, Overview of Sources, Dissemination/Explanation of Materials, Course Business, and Inaugural Discussion

August 28:

Eighteenth-Century Periodicals and the Development of a National Literature

- David Paul Nord, "A Republican Literature: A Study of Magazine Readers and Reading in Late Eighteenth-Century New York," in *Communities of Journalism: A History of American Newspapers and Their Readers* (2001): 175-198 (ereserves)
- Sharon M Harris, "The New-York Magazine: Cultural Repository," in *Periodical Literature in Eighteenth-Century America*, ed. Mark L. Kamrath and Sharon M. Harris (2005): 339-364 (ereserves)
- Patricia Okker, "Jeremy Belknap's Serializing the Nation," in *Social Stories: The Magazine Novel in Nineteenth-Century America* (2003): 29-54 (ereserves)
- William Dunlap, "Logan's Triumphs," *New-York Magazine*, January 1791 (APS)

September 4:

* *Separate Spheres, Inseparable Spheres: Antebellum Women Editors*

- Patricia Okker, "The Professionalization of Authorship," in *Our Sister Editors: Sarah J. Hale and the Tradition of Nineteenth-Century American Women Editors* (1995): 84-109 (ereserves)
- Steven Fink, "Antebellum Lady Editors and the Language of Authority," in *Blue Pencils & Hidden Hands: Women Editing Periodicals, 1830-1910*, ed. Sharon M. Harris (2004): 205-221 (ereserves)
- Amy Kaplan, "Manifest Domesticity," *American Literature* 70 (1998): 581-606 (ereserves)

Some sources to consider besides Godey's, which is available via APS:

- o *Portland Magazine*, edited by Ann S. Stephens (Portland, Maine; 1834-1836—APS)
- o *Dial*, edited by Margaret Fuller during the first two years of its publication (Boston; 1840-1844—APS)
- o *Peterson's Magazine*, co-edited by Ann S. Stephens, who was also a frequent contributor (Philadelphia and New York; 1842-1898—APS)
- o *Union Magazine of Literature and Art*, founded and edited by Caroline M. Kirkland (New York; 1847-1848—APS)
- o *Lowell Offering*, a "factory magazine" written entirely by women and edited by Harriet Farley and Harriot F. Curtis (Lowell, Mass. 1848-1850—APS)

For a comprehensive list of American periodicals edited by women, see the Appendix of Patricia Okker's *Our Sister Editors* (on reserve)

September 11:

The American Renaissance Revisited

- Edgar A. Poe, "The Cask of Amontillado," *Godey's Magazine and Lady's Book*, November 1846 (APS)
- Walter Whitman, "Revenge and Requital: A Tale of a Murderer Escaped," *The United States Magazine, and Democratic Review*, July/August 1845 (APS)
- Herman Melville, "Bartleby, the Scrivener: A Story of Wall-Street," *Putnam's Monthly*, November and December 1853 (APS)
- David S. Reynolds, "From Periodical Writer to Poet: Whitman's Journey through Popular Culture," in *Periodical Literature in Nineteenth-Century America*, ed. Kenneth M. Price and Susan Belasco Smith (1995): 35-50 (ereserves)
- Ezra Greenspan, "Putnam's Monthly and 'the Putnam Public,'" in *George Palmer Putnam: Representative American Publisher* (2000): 285-321 (ereserves)

September 18:

Lydia Maria Child and The Liberty Bell: Abolitionism, Feminism, and Cultural Production

- Lydia Maria Child, "The Black Saxons," Liberty Bell, January 1841 (APS)
- Lydia Maria Child, "The Quadroons," Liberty Bell, January 1842 (APS)
- Lydia Maria Child, "Slavery's Pleasant Homes: A Faithful Sketch," Liberty Bell, January 1843 (APS)
- Carolyn L. Karcher, "Rape, Murder, and Revenge in 'Slavery's Pleasant Homes': Lydia Maria Child's Antislavery Fiction and the Limits of Genre," in *The Culture of Sentiment: Race, Gender and Sentimentality in Nineteenth-Century America*, ed. Shirley Samuels (1992): 58-72 (ereserves)
- Karen Sánchez-Eppler, "Bodily Bonds: The Intersecting Rhetorics of Feminism and Abolition," *Representations* 24 (1988): 28-59 (ereserves)

September 25:

The Antebellum Black Press: Martin R. Delany and The Anglo-African Magazine

- Martin R. Delany, *Blake or The Huts of America*
- "The Outbreak in Virginia," *The Anglo-African Magazine*, November and December 1859 (ereserves)
- "The Nat Turner Insurrection," *The Anglo-African Magazine*, December 1859 (ereserves)
- "The Execution of John Brown," *The Anglo-African Magazine*, December 1859 (ereserves)

October 2:

* The Civil War, Written

- Kathleen Diffley, *To Live and Die: Collected Stories of the Civil War, 1861-1876* (Read the introductory essay, "Daily Emergency: Civil War Stories of the War Generation" (pp. 1-24) + one story from each year of the war, your choice)

In addition to the periodicals from which the selections you read were drawn, consider perusing the following sources:

- o *Atlantic Monthly* (Boston; 1857-present—MOA-Cornell)
- o *Southern Literary Messenger* (Richmond; 1835-1864—MOA-Michigan)
- o *Harper's Weekly* (New York; 1857-1916—on reserve)
- o *Continental Monthly* (New York and Boston; 1862-1864—MOA-Cornell)

October 9:

Reconstruction and Romance

- Sue Rainey, *Creating Picturesque America: Monument to the Natural and Cultural Landscape* (Read Part One, "Fighting the Illustration Wars" (pp. 3-73) + Chapter Six, "Delineation by Pen and Pencil" (pp. 195-273))
- Kathleen Diffley, "The Romance of Union as National Metaphor," in *Where My Heart Is Tuning Ever: Civil War Stories and Constitutional Reform, 1861-1876* (1992): 54-79 (ereserves)
- J. W. De Forest, "Parole d'Honneur," *Harper's Monthly*, August and September 1868 (MOA-Cornell)
- Constance Fenimore Woolson, "Rodman the Keeper," *Atlantic Monthly*, March 1877 (MOA-Cornell)

October 16:

Regionalism, "Local Color," and the Literary Marketplace: Charles W. Chesnutt and the Atlantic Monthly

- Charles W. Chesnutt, "The Goophered Grapevine," Atlantic Monthly, August 1887 (MOA-Cornell)
- Charles W. Chesnutt, "Po' Sandy," Atlantic Monthly, May 1888 (MOA-Cornell)
- Charles W. Chesnutt, "Dave's Neckliss," Atlantic Monthly, October 1889 (MOA-Cornell)
- Richard H. Brodhead, "'Why Could Not a Colored Man?': Chesnutt and the Transaction of Authorship," in *Cultures of Letters: Scenes of Reading and Writing in Nineteenth-Century America* (1993): 177-210 (ereserves)
- Kenneth M. Price, "Charles Chesnutt, the Atlantic Monthly, and the Intersection of African-American Fiction and Elite Culture," in *Periodical Literature in Nineteenth-Century America*, ed. Kenneth M. Price and Susan Belasco Smith (1995): 257-274 (ereserves)

October 23:

The Magazine Revolution of 1893

- Richard Ohmann, *Selling Culture: Magazines, Markets, and Class at the Turn of the Century* (Read Chapter Two, "The Origins of Mass Culture" (pp. 11-30)
+ Chapter Eight, "The Discourse of Advertising" (pp. 175-218)
+ Chapter Nine, "Charting Social Space" (pp. 219-286))

October 30:

* Native Americans and American Nativism: Zitkala-Sa (Gertrude Simmons Bonnin) and the Periodical Press

- Charles Hannon, "Zitkala-Sa and the Commercial Magazine Apparatus," in "The Only Efficient Instrument": *American Women Writers and the Periodical, 1837-1916*, ed. Aleta Feinsod Cane and Susan Alves (2001): 179-201 (ereserves)
- James H. Cox, "'Yours for the Indian Cause': Bonnin's Activist Editing at The American Indian Magazine, 1915-1919," in *Blue Pencils & Hidden Hands: Women Editing Periodicals, 1830-1910*, ed. Sharon M. Harris (2004): 173-197 (ereserves)
- "Selections from American Indian Magazine," in *American Indian Stories, Legends, and Other Writings*, ed. Cathy N. Davidson and Ada Norris (2003): 164-218
- "Persons Who Interest Us," *Harper's Bazaar*, April 14, 1900 [p. 330] (APS) Others sources you might consider when conducting your primary research include the mass-circulation periodicals in which Zitkala-Sa's work appeared:
 - o Atlantic Monthly (MOA-Cornell)
 - o Harper's Monthly Magazine (issues from 1900- can be recalled from the Downtown Library Depository)

November 6:

† Pulp Fiction After the "Revolution"

- Erin A. Smith, *Hard Boiled: Working-Class Readers and Pulp Magazines*
- Dashiell Hammett, "Nightmare Town," in *Nightmare Town: Stories*, ed. Kirby McCauley, Martin H. Greenberg, and Ed Gorman (1999): 3-41 [originally published in the December 27, 1924 issue of *Argosy All-Story Weekly*] (ereserves)

- Raymond Chandler, "Pearls are a Nuisance," in Raymond Chandler: Stories and Early Novels (1995): 469-513 [originally published in the April 1939 issue of Dime Detective] (ereserves)

November 13:

Seminar Paper Workshop

November 27:

Seminar Paper Workshop

December 4:

Seminar Paper Workshop + Evaluations

Seminar paper due on or before Tuesday, December 11

*- Research journal entry due

†- Seminar paper abstract due