

**ENGL 580: Transnationalism and 19C U.S. Nationalism**  
**Rowe, Fall Semester 2018 ([johnrowe@usc.edu](mailto:johnrowe@usc.edu))**  
**W., 5:00-7:20 PM, THH 411 (English Dept. Conference Room)**  
**Office Hours: W, 4-5:00 PM; by appointment, THH 402 E**

**Texts (in course sequence):**

Rowe, John Carlos. Ed. *Selected Works of Ralph Waldo Emerson and Margaret Fuller*. New Riverside Ed. Houghton Mifflin pb.

Hawthorne, Nathaniel. *The Scarlet Letter*. Eds. Seymour Gross, Sculley Bradley, Richmond Croom Beatty, and E. Hudson Long. Norton Critical Edition. W. W. Norton pb.

Delany, Martin. *Blake or The Huts of America*. Ed. Floyd J. Miller. Beacon Press pb. OUT OF PRINT. ISBN: 0-8070-6419-X. Several other editions available online, including one ed. Jerome McGann and a PDF of the Miller edition.

Melville, Herman. *Moby-Dick*. Norton Critical Edition. W. W. Norton pb.

Whitman, Walt. *Leaves of Grass and Other Writings*. Ed. Michael Moon. Norton Critical Edition. W. W. Norton pb.

Jacobs, Harriet. *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (1861). Ed. Jean Fagan Yellin (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1987). ISBN: 0674447468

Ruiz de Burton, María Amparo. *The Squatter and the Don*. NY: Modern Library pb. ISBN: 0-8129-7289-9

Twain, Mark. *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*. Norton Critical Edition. W. W. Norton

Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins, *Life among the Piutes: Their Wrongs and Claims* (1883). (University of Nevada Press pb.).

**Seminar Description:**

This seminar looks at canonical and non-canonical U.S. literature and culture as responses to U.S. imperialism in the period of nation-building. The paradox that U.S. nationalism is deeply *transnational* is explained simply by the fact that the United States legitimated itself as a nation by immediately turning to a wide variety of colonial projects inside North America and on a global scale that by the end of the century, marked by the Spanish-American and the Philippine-American wars, had been systemized into what we term “imperialism.” The seminar will provide excellent coverage of the main nineteenth-century literary classics – selections from Emerson, Margaret Fuller’s *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*, Hawthorne’s *The Scarlet Letter*, Melville’s *Moby-Dick*, Whitman’s poetry (selected), Twain’s *Connecticut Yankee*. We will also consider lesser known works that will transform our understanding of these canonical authors and texts – Martin Delany’s *Blake, or the Huts of America*, Jacobs’ *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, and

Sarah Winnemucca's *Life among the Piutes: Their Wrongs and Claims* – all of which challenge the boundaries of the 19C US geopolitical nation.

### **Seminar Requirements:**

**1) Seminar leader:** Each member of the seminar will lead the discussion in the second half of one of our seminars. You are *not* delivering a report, paper, or other kind of project. You *are* conducting the seminar as if it were a seminar you were teaching as the faculty member. You probably should pick a seminar to lead that has something to do – directly or tangentially – with your seminar essay, but you need not. You may add readings to that particular seminar, but you must do so *two weeks* in advance of the seminar and make arrangements for everyone in the seminar to have access to the material. If you do add readings (or other materials), they cannot total more than 50 pages (not counting the other pages assigned for the week). A sign-up sheet is included as part of the Syllabus and will be distributed in the first seminar (**8/22**) and email confirmation of your selected date sent before the second seminar (**8/29**).

**2) Seminar Proposal and Essay/ Project:** Each participant will present his/her proposal for the seminar project during one of the following seminars: **Week 7 (October 3), Week 8 (October 10), or Week 9 (October 17). Sign up in Seminar 2, August 29.** The proposal should include a tentative thesis, contextualized in terms of some recent scholarship, and the work or works to be treated. Your presentation should make reference to some of the works you will use to complete the project. Because these presentations are scheduled half-way through the semester, I assume you will have discussed your project at length with me in office hours and/or via email.

The final project should be about 20-25 pages or the equivalent in other media. I encourage you to experiment with media other than text/ print, although you should discuss with me your plans so we can work together on possible training outside the seminar (such as is offered by the Institute for Multimedia Literacy at USC).

Your final essay/ project, whatever its format, should include substantial evidence, both from primary and secondary texts, and make an argument in keeping with scholarly protocols. You should follow the *Modern Language Association* system of citation. The seminar essay/ project is due by email to me ([johnrowe@usc.edu](mailto:johnrowe@usc.edu)) in an attached electronic file on **December 14, F, no later than 5 PM.**

**3) Seminar Evaluation:** At the end of the seminar and in response to your seminar essay, I will give you a written evaluation of your work in the seminar, with special attention to your essay. The same written evaluation will be submitted to your Department, so you know exactly what I've written in evaluating you for the pertinent Graduate Committee. You will receive only one grade for the entire seminar, not separate grades for each assignment.

## Syllabus

**August 22: Seminar 1:** Introduction to the seminar; requirements and discussion of Rowe, “The Ends of Transnationalism and U.S. Cultural Imperialism” (Blackboard)

**August 29: Seminar 2:** Emerson, *Nature*, “Self-Reliance,” “Man the Reformer,” “The Poet,” “An Address . . . on . . . the Emancipation of the Negroes in the British West Indies,” “Woman,” “Ode, Inscribed to W. H. Channing,” and “Boston Hymn” (all in *Selected Writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson and Margaret Fuller*).

**Seminar Leader(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**September 5: Seminar 3:** Fuller, *Woman in the Nineteenth Century* (1845) (in *Selected Writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson and Margaret Fuller*).

**Seminar Leader(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**September 12: Seminar 4:** Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter* (1850).

**Seminar Leader(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**September 19: Seminar 5:** Herman Melville, *Moby-Dick* (1851). First seminar. Read about ½ of the text. Seminar leader(s) only responsible for that portion

**Seminar Leader(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**September 26: Seminar 6:** Herman Melville, *Moby-Dick*. Second seminar. Read remainder of this mammoth work. Seminar leader(s) should focus on second half.

**Seminar Leader(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**October 3: Seminar 7: Seminar Presentations**

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**October 10: Seminar 8: Seminar Presentations**

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**October 17: Seminar 9: Seminar Presentations**

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**October 24: Seminar 10: Martin Delany, *Blake, or the Huts of America* (1861-1862)**

**Seminar Leader(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**October 31: Seminar 10: Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl***

**Seminar Leader(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**November 7: Seminar 11: Read: Whitman, "Song of Myself," "Once I Pass'd through a Populous City," "I Saw in Louisiana a Live-Oak Growing," "Salut au Monde," "Song of the**

Open Road,” “Crossing Brooklyn Ferry,” “When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom’d,”  
 “Passage to India,” “Prayer of Columbus,” “The Sleepers.”

**Seminar Leader(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**November 7: Seminar 12:** Read: María Amparo Ruiz de Burton, *The Squatter and the Don* (1885)

**Seminar Leader(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**November 14: Seminar 13:** Twain, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court* (1889)

**Seminar Leader(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**November 21-25: Thanksgiving Recess (No Seminar)**

**November 28: Seminar 14:** Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins, *Life among the Piutes: Their Wrongs and Claims* (1883).

**Seminar Leader(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**December 14 (F): Seminar Essays due electronically to me ([johnrowe@usc.edu](mailto:johnrowe@usc.edu)) by 5 PM.**