



Childe Hassam, *Flags on the Waldorf*, 1916

LETTERATURA ANGLO-AMERICANA II

'I hear America singing'

Major works in 19th Century American Literature

Course description. Descrizione del corso

The course will examine selected literary texts from the 2nd half of the 19th century; through close reading of such texts we will also explore the cultural and historical contexts within which these American authors emerged as a new and distinct expression of a plurality of voices. In addition, we will focus on the influence these works have had on American popular culture.

Il corso esaminerà una selezione di testi delle maggiori voci letterarie che caratterizzano la seconda metà dell'Ottocento americano, mettendo in luce quella peculiare polifonia artistico-espressiva che riflette il contesto storico e culturale statunitense del periodo. Si rifletterà inoltre sull'impatto che questi autori e le loro opere hanno avuto e hanno sulla cultura popolare americana. Particolare attenzione verrà posta alla lettura e interpretazione delle fonti primarie ovvero le opere degli autori trattati.

Instructor: Agnese De Marchi

Classes will begin on Wednesday 5th October, 2016

The course will be held in English

Reading list. Testi

- **Walt Whitman**, "Song of Myself" from *Leaves of Grass*, First Edition (1855); "I hear America singing" (1860); "When I Heard the Learn'd Astronomer" (1865).

- **Emily Dickinson**, “Success is counted sweetest”, “After great pain, a formal feeling comes”, “One need not be a Chamber-”, “Some keep the Sabbath going to Church”, “Wild Nights – Wild Nights!”, “There’s a certain Slant of Light”, “I dwell in Possibility –”, “This is my letter to the World”, “She rose to His Requirement – dropt”.
- **Henry James**, *Washington Square* (1880); *The Aspern Papers* (1888).
- **Mark Twain**, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884).
- **Kate Chopin**, “The Story of an Hour” (1894).
- **Stephen Crane**, *The Red Badge of Courage* (1895).

Background reading: R. Gray, *A History of American Literature*, Blackwell, 2004.

- Dickinson’s poems, Chopin’s short story and Whitman’s “When I Heard the Learn’d Astronomer” and “I hear America singing” will be available on Moodle.
- Additional course materials such as critical essays will be uploaded during the course.
- *Leaves of Grass (First Edition)*, *The Aspern Papers*, *Washington Square*, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *The Red Badge of Courage* may be purchased at “In Der Tat” bookstore, via Diaz 22.
- Recommended websites: www.whitmanarchive.org; www.amherst.edu/library/archives/holdings/edickinson; www.henryjames.org.uk; <http://twain.lib.virginia.edu/index2.html>; www.katechopin.org;