



*The Veteran in a New Field*, Winslow Homer, 1865

## LETTERATURA ANGLO-AMERICANA II

### **'The Varied Carols I Hear'**

### **Major works in 19<sup>th</sup> century American Literature**

#### **Course description:**

The course will focus on the major voices of American literature which characterized the 2nd half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century such as :Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson; Henry James; Stephen Crane; Kate Chopin and Mark Twain. We will analyze a variety of texts belonging to different genres by the above mentioned authors: novels, poems and short stories. These iconic American authors reflect the polyphony which defined American culture during that period. Through the analysis of these literary texts and the historical/cultural contexts within which they were created, a number of issues will be dealt with: the relation between individual and communal identity, the Civil War and war narrative, the role of 19th century American women in society, the cultural relationship between America and Europe, the birth of an American identity. The course will be held in **English**.

Instructor: Agnese De Marchi

Classes will begin on Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018

#### **Reading List:**

- 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 –", "She rose to His Requirement – dropt".

- Mark Twain, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884).
  - Kate Chopin, "The Story of an Hour" (1894).
  - Stephen Crane, *The Red Badge of Courage* (1895).
  - Henry James, *Daisy Miller* (1878); *The Aspern Papers* (1888).
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- Background reading(mandatory): R. Gray, *A History of American Literature*, Blackwell, 2004. Whitman: pp.232-237; Dickinson pp.237-244; Chapter 3, 'The Development of American Literature 1865-1900' pp. 245-250; Twain pp. 250-257; Chopin pp.270-274; James pp. 287-296; Crane pp.303-305. (page numbers may vary depending on the edition)
  - 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.
  - Suggested edition: *Daisy Miller*, Marsilio Editore, 2017 (eds. Donatella Izzo, trans. Simone Francescato, parallel text/translation)
  - Recommended websites: [www.amherst.edu/library/archives/holdings/edickinson](http://www.amherst.edu/library/archives/holdings/edickinson) ; [www.henryjames.org.uk](http://www.henryjames.org.uk) ; <http://twain.lib.virginia.edu/index2.html> ; [www.katechopin.org](http://www.katechopin.org)