The Multigenre Research Project - 20%
LIT 2390 - Survey of American Literature 1620 to 1900
Fall 2004

"The word in living conversation is directly, blatantly oriented toward a future answer-word; it provokes an answer, anticipates it and structures itself in the answer's direction. Forming itself in an atmosphere of the already spoken, the word is at the same time determined by that which has not been said but which is needed and in fact is anticipated by the answering. (Bakhtin, Dialogic Imagination 280).

"Writing about the past put(s) students (and teachers) in the ethical position of interpreting the past for future generations" (Mack, "The Ins, Outs, and In-Betweens of Multigenre Writing," 94).

GOALS:
1. To create an artistic expression interpreting the past for the future.
2. To interpret a novel from a new historical/cultural perspective and to render a new reading of the novel in a creative multigenre project.

PROCESS:
1. Select a novel that interests you from the Reading list. (You will need to select a novel that you have never read!)
3. Research 5 historical sources, primary or secondary, written during the time of your novel or about the time of your novel, and research 5 critical sources about your novel. This is just a minimum; you may need to do more research as your project dictates.
4. Complete a 5 page review of the literature explaining how your research will inform your project. Your Literature Review will need to discuss 10 sources.
5. Using a new historical/cultural perspective, select a theme within the novel itself to analyze from multiple perspectives in a multi genre project.

REQUIREMENTS:
1. Develop (5) historically and contextually accurate perspectives utilizing 5 different genres.
2. Perspectives may be written from first or third person.
3. The perspectives may be fiction or non-fiction but always historically accurate.
4. Genre possibilities - original music, newspaper articles, diary entry, poetry, a conversation, a one-act play, a stream of consciousness monologue, an interview, a eulogy, a textbook page, a pamphlet, poem for two voices, a letter, an obituary, or a letter of commendation.
5. The author must cite information and include end notes to explain how 5 outside sources have informed the various pieces in the project.
6. The author must include cohering devices that make the artistic work a unified analysis of the thematic idea analyzed in the pieces.
   a. Introductory Letter
   b. Table of Contents - Titles of Each Selection, Page Numbers, and Genre
   c. Concluding Piece
7. Multigenre checkpoints are listed in your syllabus. You will need to turn in all required checkpoint material in order to turn in and receive credit for a completed project.
8. HAVE FUN AND BE CREATIVE!
Novel List

1. *The Blithedale Romance*. Author: Nathaniel Hawthorne

2. *The House of the Seven Gables*. Author: Nathaniel Hawthorne

3. *Billy Budd*. Author: Herman Melville

4. *Narrative of the Life of Fredrick Douglass: An American Slave: Written By Himself*. Author: Frederick Douglass

5. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Author: Mark Twain


7. *The Awakening*. Author: Kate Chopin

8. *The House of Mirth*. Author: Edith Wharton

9. *The Age of Innocence*. Author: Edith Wharton


11. *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Author: Harriet Beecher Stowe

*Denotes helpful books on reserve for historical and cultural analysis of the novel. A person could use the House of Mirth book on reserve for accurate historical and cultural information about The Age of Innocence.*