

Winter 2018
Department of English
Course and Section No: ENGL 4708A
Course Title: Studies in American Literature I:
American Bohemians
Prerequisite(s): fourth-year standing or permission of the
department
Location: CB2104 Time: F 8:35-11:25
Instructor: Rob Holton Phone: 520-2600 ext. 2308
Email: robert_holton@carleton.ca
Office: 1919 Dunton Tower
Office Hours: W2:00-3:00

Course Description

. . . the whole indefinite, disintegrated mass, thrown hither and thither, which the French call *la bohème*. Karl Marx -- *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte* (1852)

"It is queer," Anne continued, "but, do you know, I cannot find any interesting people outside of Bohemia."

"Or any interesting ideas," said Helen; "but that's the same thing."

"Or any good coffee," added Howard, lifting his cup.

Margaret Sherwood - *A Puritan Bohemia* (1896)

“. . . the sordid hipsters of America, a new beat generation that I was slowly joining.”

Jack Kerouac -- *On the Road* (1957)

“La vie boheme!” Jonathan Larson – *Rent* (1993)

The course will begin with a consideration of the idea of bohemia as it emerged in Paris in the 1800s following the turbulence of the French Revolution and the Napoleonic wars. By mid-century, Parisian bohemia was famous as a haven both for artists and for eccentrics, a space where creativity was prized and transgression was not only permitted but celebrated. The concept was widely exported and soon America had a burgeoning bohemian culture as well. A thriving American bohemia, centred in Greenwich Village NY formed around the turn of the 20th century, paving the way for the Beat Generation and the hippies and *Rent* decades later. Issues to be considered along the way include: bohemia as a response to capitalism and to bourgeois conventions, gender relations in bohemia, the overlap between bohemians and the lumpenproletariat, bohemians and political commitment, bohemia and . . .

Texts to purchase (see syllabus for a more complete list)

<i>On the Road</i>	Jack Kerouac
<i>Portable Beat Reader</i>	Ed. Ann Charters

Evaluation

Essay 1 (8 pages +)	25%	Attendance and Participation	15%
Essay 2 (10 pages +)	40%	Test	20%

- Secondary sources are required for both essays
- The essay topics must be cleared with me well before submission.
- The essays should follow MLA format.
- The participation mark will reflect both attendance and participation. Attendance is required. In my experience, there is a very close correlation between poor attendance and poor marks.
- If an assignment is lost, misplaced, or not received, you are responsible for having a backup copy that can be submitted immediately upon request.
- All essays must be submitted by 11 April, 2018.



From Myrtle Reed's "The Dweller in Bohemia" (1912)

Tentative Syllabus

Week 1 Jan 12	Introduction <i>Rent</i>
Week 2 Jan 19	Paris - Henry Murger – <i>Bohemian Life</i> Preface How the Bohemian Club was Organized Lenten Amours Mademoiselle Musette A Bohemian Cafe Francine's Muff Epilogue
Week 3 Jan 26	America - Harper's – "What Is a Bohemian?" James McCabe - <i>Light and Shadows of NY Life</i> 386-389 E.R. de Schell - "Feminine Bohemianism" - Anon - "Female Bohemian Life in Boston" Walt Whitman – "Song of the Open Road" Willa Cather – "Coming Aphrodite"
Week 4 Feb 2	Floyd Dell – "Halleluja I'm a Bum" <i>Reds</i> - Warren Beatty, Diane Keaton Edna Saint Vincent Millay – Poems
Week 5 Feb 9	Allen Ginsberg - "Howl" (Beat Reader)
Week 6 Feb 16	Jack Kerouac - <i>On the Road</i>
Feb 23	READING WEEK
Week 7 Mar 2	Jack Kerouac - <i>On the Road</i> and Beat Poets
Week 8 Mar 9	Diane DiPrima (Beat Reader + Ares)
Week 9 Mar 16	Gary Snyder and catch up
Week 10 Mar 23	Folk Music Revival and Bob Dylan
Mar 30	HOLIDAY
Week 11 Apr 6	Bob Dylan and Hippies
Week 12 April 11	Catch up and Wrap up

Plagiarism

The University Senate defines plagiarism as "presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own." This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;

- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

Please see the statement on Academic Integrity in the Undergraduate Calendar. You are responsible for understanding what plagiarism is. If you are in any doubt, consult me.

Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the [Student Guide](#).

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the [Student Guide](#).

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). **Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.** After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website (www.carleton.ca/pmc) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).