

Winter 2017
Department of English
Course and Section No: ENGL 4708B
Course Title: Studies in American Literature I:
American Bohemians
Prerequisite(s): fourth-year standing in Honours English
Location: SA 615 Time: W 11:35-14:25
Instructor: Rob Holton Phone: 520-2600 ext. 2308
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Office Hours: TBA.

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)

On the Road Jack Kerouac
Portable Beat Reader Ed. Ann Charters

Tentative Evaluation

Essay 1 (8 pages +)	30%	Attendance and Participation	15%
Essay 2 (10 pages +)	40%	Test	15%

- Secondary sources are required for both essays
- The essay topics must be cleared with me well before submission.
- The essays should follow MLA format.
- If an assignment is lost, misplaced, or not received, you are responsible for having a backup copy that can be submitted immediately upon request.
- 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 7 April, 2017.



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

Tentative Syllabus

Week 1 Jan 11	Introduction	<i>Rent</i>
Week 2 Jan 18	Paris	Henry Murger – <i>Bohemian Life</i> (cuLearn) Preface How the Bohemian Club was Organized A Messenger from Providence Lenten Amours Mademoiselle Musette A Bohemian Cafe A Reception in Bohemia The House-warming Mademoiselle Mimi Francine's Muff Musette's Whims Epilogue
Week 3 Jan 25	America	Harper's – "What Is a Bohemian?" James McCabe - <i>Light and Shadows of New York Life</i> E.R. de Schell - "Feminine Bohemianism" - Anon - "Female Bohemian Life in Boston" John B. O'Reilly - "In Bohemia" E.C. Stedman - "Bohemia A Pilgrimage" - Walt Whitman – "Song of the Open Road" (cuLearn)
Week 4 Feb 1	Greenwich Village	The Masses http://library.brown.edu/cds/mjp/render.php?view=mjp_object&id=MassesCollection Floyd Dell – "Halleluja I'm a Bum" <i>Reds</i> - Warren Beatty, Diane Keaton
Week 5 Feb 8	Anna Alice Chapin	Greenwich Village Willa Cather – "Coming Aphrodite" Edna Saint Vincent Millay – Poems (culearn)
Week 6 Feb 15		Allen Ginsberg and the Beats - "Howl" (Beat Reader)
Feb 22	READING WEEK	
Week 7 Mar 1		Jack Kerouac - <i>On the Road</i>
Week 8 Mar 8		Diane DiPrima (Beat Reader + Ares)
Week 9 Mar 15		Beat Poets and Catch up
Week 10 Mar 22		Folk Music Revival and Bob Dylan
Week 11 Mar 29		Bob Dylan and Hippies
Week 12 Apr 5		Rent, Richard Florida 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 because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and 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.

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by TBA for the Fall term and TBA for the Winter term.

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation>.