

The Social Construction Of American Realism Studies In Law And Economics

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Winslow Homer and the Camera Frank H. Goodyear III 2018-01-01 A revelatory exploration of Winslow Homer's engagement with photography, shedding new light on his celebrated paintings and works on paper One of the greatest American painters of the 19th century, Winslow Homer (1836–1910) also maintained a deep engagement with photography throughout his career. Focusing on the important, yet often-overlooked, role that photography played in Homer's art, this volume exposes Homer's own experiments with the camera (he first bought one in 1882). It also explores how the medium of photography and the larger visual economy influenced his work as a painter, watercolorist, and printmaker at a moment when new print technologies inundated the public with images. Frank Goodyear and Dana Byrd demonstrate that photography offered Homer new ways of seeing and representing the world, from his early commercial engravings sourced from contemporary photographs to the complex relationship between his late-career paintings of life in the Bahamas, Florida, and Cuba and the emergent trend of tourist photography. The authors argue that Homer's understanding of the camera's ability to create an image that is simultaneously accurate and capable of deception was vitally important to his artistic practice in all media. Richly illustrated and full of exciting new discoveries,

Winslow Homer and the Camera is a long-overdue examination of the ways in which photography shaped the vision of one of America's most original painters.

The Routledge Companion to American Literary Journalism William E. Dow 2019-11-13 Taking a thematic approach, this new companion provides an interdisciplinary, cross-cultural, and international study of American literary journalism. From the work of Frederick Douglass and Walt Whitman to that of Joan Didion and Dorothy Parker, literary journalism is a genre that both reveals and shapes American history and identity. This volume not only calls attention to literary journalism as a distinctive genre but also provides a critical foundation for future scholarship. It brings together cutting-edge research from literary journalism scholars, examining historical perspectives; themes, venues, and genres across time; theoretical approaches and disciplinary intersections; and new directions for scholarly inquiry. Provoking reconsideration and inquiry, while providing new historical interpretations, this companion recognizes, interacts with, and honors the tradition and legacies of American literary journalism scholarship. Engaging the work of disciplines such as sociology, anthropology, African American studies, gender studies, visual studies, media studies, and American studies, in addition to journalism and literary studies, this book is perfect for students and scholars of those disciplines.

Women's Experience of Modernity, 1875-1945 Leslie W. Lewis 2003-01-27 Analyzing such cultural practices as selling and shopping, political and social activism, urban field work and rural labor, radical discourses on feminine sexuality, and literary and artistic experimentation, this volume contributes to the rich vein of current feminist scholarship on the "gender of modernism" and challenges the assumption that modernism rose naturally or inevitably to the forefront of the cultural landscape at the turn of the twentieth century."

The Problem of American Realism Michael Davitt Bell 1993-04-15 Ever since William Dean Howells declared his "realism war" in the 1880s, literary historians have regarded the rise of "realism" and "naturalism" as the great development in American post-Civil War fiction. Yet there are many problems with this generalization. It is virtually impossible, for example, to extract from the novels and manifestoes of American writers of this period any consistent definitions of realism or naturalism as modes of literary representation. Rather than seek common traits in widely divergent "realist" and "naturalist" literary works, Michael Davitt Bell focuses here on the role that these terms played in the social and literary discourse of the 1880s and 1890s. Bell argues that in America, "realism" and "naturalism" never achieved the sort of theoretical rigor that they did in European literary debate. Instead, the function of these ideas in America was less aesthetic than ideological, promoting as "reality" a version of social normalcy based on radically anti-"literary" and heavily gendered assumptions. What effects, Bell asks, did ideas about realism and naturalism have on writers who embraced

and resisted them? To answer this question, he devotes separate chapters to the work of Howells and Frank Norris (the principal American advocates of realism and naturalism in the 1880s and 1890s), Mark Twain, Henry James, Stephen Crane, Theodore Dreiser, and Sarah Orne Jewett. Bell reveals that a chief function of claiming to be a realist or a naturalist was to provide assurance that one was a "real" man rather than an "effeminate" artist. Since the 1880s, Bell asserts, all serious American fiction writers have had to contend with this problematic conception of literary realism. The true story of the transformation of American fiction after the Civil War is the history of this contention - a history of individual accommodations, evasions, holding actions, and occasional triumphs.

Echoes of Emerson Diana Hope Polley 2017-10-17 Probes the ways in which two major periods in nineteenth-century American literature—Romanticism and Realism—have come to be understood and defined. Echoes of Emerson: Rethinking Realism in Twain, James, Wharton, and Cather traces the complex and unexplored relationship between American realism and the philosophy of Ralph Waldo Emerson. Critics often read American realism as a clear disavowal of earlier American romantic philosophy and as a commitment to recognizing the stark realities of a new postbellum order. Diana Hope Polley's study complicates these traditional assumptions by reading American realism as an ongoing dialogue with the ideas—often idealisms—of America's greatest romantic philosopher, Ralph Waldo Emerson. In this illuminating work, Polley offers detailed readings of Mark Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Henry James's *The Portrait of a Lady*, Edith Wharton's *The House of Mirth*, and Willa Cather's *My Ántonia*—all through the lens of Emersonian philosophy and discourse. This unique contribution to nineteenth- and early twentieth-century literary studies shows how these texts revisit Emerson's antebellum "republic of the spirit" philosophy, specifically the trope of the Emersonian hero/heroine navigating the harsh contingencies of the modern world. Romanticism and realism are often seen as opposing binaries, with romanticism celebrating the individual, self-reliance, and nature and realism emphasizing the weight of socio-historical forces. Realism is often characterized as rejecting the transcendent principles of Emersonian thought. Rather than accept those distinct boundaries between romance and realism, Polley argues that American realists struggled between celebrating Emerson's core philosophies of individual possibility and acknowledging the stark "realities" of American social and historical life. In short, this study recognizes within realism a divided loyalty between two historical trends and explores how these seemingly contradictory notions—Emerson's romantic philosophy and later nineteenth-century visions of historical reality—exist, simultaneously, within the literature of the period.

Reading for Realism Associate Professor of English Nancy Glazener 1997 Reading for Realism presents a new approach to U.S. literary history that is based on the analysis of dominant reading practices rather than on the production of texts.

Nancy Glazener's focus is the realist novel, the most influential literary form of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries - a form she contends was only made possible by changes in the expectations of readers about pleasure and literary value. By tracing readers' collaboration in the production of literary forms, *Reading for Realism* turns nineteenth-century controversies about the realist, romance, and sentimental novels into episodes in the history of readership. It also shows how works of fiction by Rebecca Harding Davis, Henry James, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and others participated in the debates about literary classification and reading that, in turn, created and shaped their audiences. Combining reception theory with a materialist analysis of the social formations in which realist reading practices circulated, Glazener's study reveals the elitist underpinnings of literary realism. At the book's centre is the Atlantic group of magazines, whose influence was part of the cultural machinery of the Northeastern urban bourgeoisie and crucial to the development of literary realism in America. Glazener shows how the promotion of realism by this group of publications also meant a consolidation of privilege - primarily in terms of class, gender, race, and region - for the audience it served. Thus American realism, so often portrayed as a quintessentially populist form, actually served to enforce existing structures of class and power. Grounded in archival investigation and demonstrating a thorough critical and theoretical sophistication, *Reading for Realism* will engage readers with interests in American literature, particularly nineteenth-century fiction, literary theory, and gender and class studies.

Stephen Crane Harold Bloom 2007 Presents a collection of contemporary criticism on the works of the nineteenth-century American author.

The Cambridge Companion to American Realism and Naturalism Donald Pizer 1995-06-30 Publisher Description
A Companion to the American Novel Alfred Bendixen 2012-05-07 Featuring 37 essays by distinguished literary scholars, *A Companion to the American Novel* provides a comprehensive single-volume treatment of the development of the novel in the United States from the late 18th century to the present day. Represents the most comprehensive single-volume introduction to this popular literary form currently available Features 37 contributions from a wide range of distinguished literary scholars Includes essays on topics and genres, historical overviews, and key individual works, including *The Scarlet Letter*, *Moby Dick*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Beloved*, and many more.

Paternalism Incorporated David Leverenz 2003 Between the Civil War and World War I, David Leverenz maintains, the corporate transformation of American work created widespread desire for upward mobility along with widening class divisions. In his view, several significant narrative constructs, notably the daddy's girl and the daddy's boy, emerge at the intersection between paternalist practices and more democratic possibilities for self-advancement. From Mark Twain's

Laura Hawkins in *The Gilded Age* to the protagonist of Theodore Dreiser's *Sister Carrie* and Willa Cather's *Alexandra Bergson* in *O Pioneers!*, Leverenz finds that the image of the daddy's girl constrains the emerging threat of the career woman even as it articulates the lure of upward mobility for women. In surveying the figure of the "daddy's boy," Leverenz examines tensions between young men's desires for upward mobility and older men's desires for paternal control. *Paternalism Incorporated* also addresses yearnings for individualism and paternalism in various critiques of the emerging corporation. Another chapter links honor and shaming to race in the philanthropic practices of Andrew Carnegie and John D. Rockefeller, framed with narratives by William Dean Howells, Booker T. Washington, and Jane Addams. After showing how a daddy's girl becomes a paternalist in Henry James's *The Golden Bowl*, Leverenz considers F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night* as paternalism's elegy, contrasted with the Shirley Temple film *The Little Colonel*.

The Social Construction of American Realism Amy Kaplan 1992-12-15 Kaplan redefines American realism as a genre more engaged with a society in flux than with one merely reflective of the status quo. She reads realistic narrative as a symbolic act of imagining and controlling the social upheavals of early modern capitalism, particularly class conflict and the development of mass culture. Brilliant analyses of works by Howells, Wharton, and Dreiser illuminate the narrative process by which realism constructs a social world of conflict and change. "[Kaplan] offers some enthralling readings of major novels by Howells, Wharton, and Dreiser. It is a book which should be read by anyone interested in the American novel."—Tony Tanner, *Modern Language Review* "Kaplan has made an important contribution to our understanding of American realism. This is a book that deserves wide attention."—June Howard, *American Literature*

Manly Arts David A Gerstner 2006-03-06 DIVExamines the anxieties of class and race and the conflicts between New and Old Worlds that attend the elevation of masculinity as a defining characteristic of early American cinema and visual culture./div

Intellectual Property Law and History Steven Wilf 2017-07-05 Intellectual property has become a dominant feature of our knowledge based economy in recent years, but how has property rights in intangible items developed? This book brings together for the first time exemplary scholarship with diverse approaches to the history of United States intellectual property protection, including trade secrets, trademark, copyright, and patent law. These articles, written by leading experts in the field and often challenging conventional narratives, underscore the importance of historical perspectives for understanding how an extensive, evolving framework for the regulation of knowledge emerged in the modern period. By tracing intellectual property from an historical perspective - not merely providing justifications in philosophy or economics in the abstract - this book draws upon the past to address contemporary debates over such varied topics as: access to

knowledge; policing copyright infringement; whether employees should own the products of their minds; the role of national borders in an age of digital information; and the very future of intellectual property as stakeholders and consumers contest the extent of its legal protection.

Dictionary of Midwestern Literature, Volume 2 Philip A. Greasley 2016-08-08 The Midwest has produced a robust literary heritage. Its authors have won half of the nation's Nobel Prizes for Literature plus a significant number of Pulitzer Prizes. This volume explores the rich racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity of the region. It also contains entries on 35 pivotal Midwestern literary works, literary genres, literary, cultural, historical, and social movements, state and city literatures, literary journals and magazines, as well as entries on science fiction, film, comic strips, graphic novels, and environmental writing. Prepared by a team of scholars, this second volume of the Dictionary of Midwestern Literature is a comprehensive resource that demonstrates the Midwest's continuing cultural vitality and the stature and distinctiveness of its literature.

Mark Twain's Ethical Realism Joe B. Fulton 1997 Mark Twain's Ethical Realism is the only work that looks specifically at how Twain blends ethical and aesthetic concerns in the act of composing his novels. Fulton conducts a spirited discussion regarding these concepts, and his explanation of how they relate to Twain's writing helps to clarify the complexities of his creative genius.

American Studies at Home and Abroad

White Liberal Identity, Literary Pedagogy, and Classic American Realism Phillip Barrish 2005

The Fabric of American Literary Realism Babak Elahi 2014-01-10 This critical study traces the connections between the rising economic importance of the garment industry and the advent of a powerful movement towards literary realism in American fiction. Examining the works of Henry James, Theodor Dreiser, Abraham Cahan, Anzia Yezierska, and Willa Cather and the shifting of the American ideal from the "homespun" to the "ready made," it explains how that cultural and psychological change appeared in the new literature of the nation.

Langston Hughes Harold Bloom 2008 Poet, playwright, novelist, and public figure, Langston Hughes is regarded as a cultural hero who made his mark during the Harlem Renaissance. A prolific author, Hughes focused his writing on discrimination in and disillusionment with American society. His most noted works include the novel Not Without Laughter, the poem "The Negro Speaks of Rivers," and the essay The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain, to name just a few. Langston Hughes, New Edition features compelling critical essays that create a well-rounded portrait of this great American writer. An introductory essay by Harold Bloom and a chronology tracing the major events in Hughes's life add

further depth to this newly updated study tool.

Writing the City Desmond Harding 2004-06-01 Writing the City examines and challenges the traditional transatlantic axis of urban modernism, London-Paris-New York, an axis that has often elided the historical importance of other centers that have shaped metropolitan identities and discourses. According to Desmond Harding, James Joyce's internationalist vision of Dublin generates powerful epistemic and cultural tropes that reconceive the idea of the modern city as a moral phenomenon in transcultural and transhistorical terms. Taking up the works of both Joyce and John Dos Passos, Harding investigates the lasting contributions these author's made to transatlantic intellectual thought in their efforts to envisage the city.

Man Made Martin A. Berger 2000 "Berger's original readings provide altogether new and compelling ways to understand some of Eakins's most well-known paintings."--Alexander Nemerov, Stanford University "This book is most interesting. Berger rereads a number of Eakins's paintings and makes use of recent investigations about the meaning of manhood in the nineteenth century. Man Made casts much of Eakins's life and work into new light."--Elizabeth Johns, author of Thomas Eakins: The Heroism of Modern Life "During the last decade, Martin Berger has been the most perceptive and sophisticated critic of masculinity in nineteenth-century American art. With this book he consolidates that analysis triumphantly--and extends its implications, first into a consideration of all of Eakins's oeuvre, and then into related discourses of sexuality, domesticity, and race. Man Made has useful things to say to scholars in all fields of American culture. In addition, it now becomes the most interesting book on Eakins since Elizabeth Johns's groundbreaking work, Thomas Eakins: The Heroism of Modern Life, first published nearly twenty years ago."--Bruce Robertson, University of California, Santa Barbara

Handbook of the American Novel of the Nineteenth Century Christine Gerhardt 2018-06-11 This handbook offers students and researchers a compact introduction to the nineteenth-century American novel in the light of current debates, theoretical concepts, and critical methodologies. The volume turns to the nineteenth century as a formative era in American literary history, a time that saw both the rise of the novel as a genre, and the emergence of an independent, confident American culture. A broad range of concise essays by European and American scholars demonstrates how some of America's most well-known and influential novels responded to and participated in the radical transformations that characterized American culture between the early republic and the age of imperial expansion. Part I consists of 7 systematic essays on key historical and critical frameworks ? including debates about race and citizenship, transnationalism, environmentalism and print culture, as well as sentimentalism, romance and the gothic, realism and

naturalism. Part II provides 22 essays on individual novels, each combining an introduction to relevant cultural contexts with a fresh close reading and the discussion of critical perspectives shaped by literary and cultural theory.

African-American Poets Harold Bloom 2009-01-01 This volume focuses on the principal African-American poets from colonial times through the Harlem Renaissance, paying tribute to a heritage that has long been overlooked. Works covered in this text include poems by Phillis Wheatley, widely recognized as

A Companion to American Fiction, 1865 - 1914 Robert Paul Lamb 2008-04-15 A Companion to American Fiction, 1865-1914 is a groundbreaking collection of essays written by leading critics for a wide audience of scholars, students, and interested general readers. An exceptionally broad-ranging and accessible Companion to the study of American fiction of the post-civil war period and the early twentieth century Brings together 29 essays by top scholars, each of which presents a synthesis of the best research and offers an original perspective Divided into sections on historical traditions and genres, contexts and themes, and major authors Covers a mixture of canonical and the non-canonical themes, authors, literatures, and critical approaches Explores innovative topics, such as ecological literature and ecocriticism, children's literature, and the influence of Darwin on fiction

The Factory Girl and the Seamstress Amal Amireh 2021-12-17 This book studies the representations of working-class women in canonical and popular American fiction between 1820 and 1870. These representations have been invisible in nineteenth century American literary and cultural studies due to the general view that antebellum writers did not engage with their society's economic and social realities. Against this view and to highlight the cultural importance of working-class women, this study argues that, in responding to industrialization, middle class writers such as Melville, Hawthorne, Fern, Davies, and Phelps used the figures of the factory worker and the seamstress to express their anxieties about unstable gender and class identities. These fictional representations were influenced by, and contributed to, an important but understudied cultural debate about wage labor, working women, and class.

The Cambridge Companion to Theodore Dreiser Eby 2004-02-12 The specially commissioned essays collected in this volume establish new parameters for both scholarly and classroom discussion of Dreiser. This Companion provides fresh perspectives on the frequently read classics, *Sister Carrie* and *An American Tragedy*, as well as on topics of perennial interest, such as Dreiser's representation of the city and his prose style. The volume investigates topics such as his representation of masculinity and femininity, and his treatment of ethnicity. It is the most comprehensive introduction to Dreiser's work available.

Realist Poetics in American Culture, 1866-1900 Elizabeth Renker 2018-06-07 The terms 'poetry' and 'realism' have a

complex and often oppositional relationship in American literary histories of the postbellum period. The core narrative holds that 'realism', the major literary 'movement' of the era, developed apace in prose fiction, while poetry, stuck in a hopelessly idealist late-Romantic mode, languished and stagnated. Poetry is almost entirely absent from scholarship on American literary realism except as the emblem of realism's opposite: a desiccated genteel 'twilight of the poets.' *Realist Poetics in American Culture, 1866-1900* refutes the familiar narrative of postbellum poetics as a scene of failure, and it recovers the active and variegated practices of a diverse array of realist poets across print culture. The triumph of the twilight tale in the twentieth century obscured, minimized, and flattened the many poetic discourses of the age, including but not limited to a significant body of realist poems currently missing from US literary histories. Excavating an extensive archive of realist poems, the volume offers a significant revision to the genre-exclusive story of realism and, by extension, to the very foundations of postbellum American literary history dating back to the earliest stages of the discipline.

Postcolonial Literature and the United States: Race, Ethnicity, and Literature Probing essays that examine critical issues surrounding the United States's ever-expanding international cultural identity in the postcolonial era Download Plain Text version At the beginning of the twenty-first century, we may be in a "transnational" moment, increasingly aware of the ways in which local and national narratives, in literature and elsewhere, cannot be conceived apart from a radically new sense of shared human histories and global interdependence. To think transnationally about literature, history, and culture requires a study of the evolution of hybrid identities within nation-states and diasporic identities across national boundaries. Studies addressing issues of race, ethnicity, and empire in U.S. culture have provided some of the most innovative and controversial contributions to recent scholarship. *Postcolonial Theory and the United States: Race, Ethnicity, and Literature* represents a new chapter in the emerging dialogues about the importance of borders on a global scale. This book collects nineteen essays written in the 1990s in this emergent field by both well established and up-and-coming scholars. Almost all the essays have been either especially written for this volume or revised for inclusion here. These essays are accessible, well-focused resources for college and university students and their teachers, displaying both historical depth and theoretical finesse as they attempt close and lively readings. The anthology includes more than one discussion of each literary tradition associated with major racial or ethnic communities. Such a gathering of diverse, complementary, and often competing viewpoints provides a good introduction to the cultural differences and commonalities that comprise the United States today. The volume opens with two essays by the editors: first, a survey of the ideas in the individual pieces, and, second, a long essay that places current debates in U.S. ethnicity and race studies within both the history of American studies as a whole and recent developments in postcolonial theory. Amritjit Singh, a

professor of English and African American studies at Rhode Island College, is coeditor of *Conversations with Ralph Ellison* and *Conversations with Ishmael Reed* (both from University Press of Mississippi). Peter Schmidt, a professor of English at Swarthmore College, is the author of *The Heart of the Story: Eudora Welty's Short Fiction* (University Press of Mississippi).

The Dream of the Great American Novel Lawrence Buell 2014-02-25 The first book in many years to take in the full sweep of national fiction, *The Dream of the Great American Novel* explains why this supposedly antiquated idea continues to thrive. It shows that four G.A.N. "scripts" are keys to the dynamics of American literature and identity--and to the myth of a nation perpetually under construction.

English and American Studies Martin Middeke 2016-08-17 Das ganze Studium der Anglistik und Amerikanistik in einem Band. Ob englische und amerikanische Literatur, Sprachwissenschaft, Literatur- und Kulturtheorie, Fachdidaktik oder die Analyse von Filmen und kulturellen Phänomenen führende Fachvertreter geben in englischer Sprache einen ausführlichen Überblick über alle relevanten Teildisziplinen. BA- und MA-Studierende finden hier die wichtigsten Grundlagen und Wissensgebiete auf einen Blick. Durch die übersichtliche Darstellung und das Sachregister optimal für das systematische Lernen und zum Nachschlagen geeignet.

Cultures of United States Imperialism Amy Kaplan 1993 Begins to fill the gaping lacuna of imperialism in the standard histories of the US by exploring how US expansion has influenced people of other cultures. The 26 essays focus mostly on Africa and African Americans, but also consider the Philippines, Native Americans, Cuba, Latin America, and Disneyworld in Tokyo. They explore the racial and gender dimensions, the ideologies that buttress imperialism, resistance, and other facets. Annotation copyright by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR

Facing Facts David E. Shi 1996 Shi provides the most comprehensive history to date of the rise of realism in American culture, vividly capturing the character and sweep of this all-encompassing movement that ranges from Winslow Homer to the rise of the Ash Can school, from Whitman to Henry James to Theodore Dreiser.

Modernist Women Writers and American Social Engagement Jody Cardinal 2019-03-15 *Modernist Women Writers and American Social Engagement* explores the role of social and political engagement by women writers in the development of American modernism through an examination of a diverse array of genres by both canonical modernists and underrepresented writers.

The Environmental Imagination Lawrence Buell 1996-09-01 With the environmental crisis comes a crisis of the imagination, a need to find new ways to understand nature and humanity's relation to it. This is the challenge Lawrence

Buell takes up in *The Environmental Imagination*, the most ambitious study to date of how literature represents the natural environment. With Thoreau's *Walden* as a touchstone, Buell gives us a far-reaching account of environmental perception, the place of nature in the history of western thought, and the consequences for literary scholarship of attempting to imagine a more "ecocentric" way of being. In doing so, he provides a major new understanding of Thoreau's achievement and, at the same time, a profound rethinking of our literary and cultural reflections on nature. The green tradition in American writing commands Buell's special attention, particularly environmental nonfiction from colonial times to the present. In works by writers from Crèvecoeur to Wendell Berry, John Muir to Aldo Leopold, Rachel Carson to Leslie Silko, Mary Austin to Edward Abbey, he examines enduring environmental themes such as the dream of relinquishment, the personification of the nonhuman, an attentiveness to environmental cycles, a devotion to place, and a prophetic awareness of possible ecocatastrophe. At the center of this study we find an image of *Walden* as a quest for greater environmental awareness, an impetus and guide for Buell as he develops a new vision of environmental writing and seeks a new way of conceiving the relation between human imagination and environmental actuality in the age of industrialization. Intricate and challenging in its arguments, yet engagingly and elegantly written, *The Environmental Imagination* is a major work of scholarship, one that establishes a new basis for reading American nature writing.

Encyclopedia of Feminist Literary Theory Elizabeth Kowaleski-Wallace 2009-03-23 First Published in 1997. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor & Francis, an informa company.

A History of American Civil War Literature Coleman Hutchison 2015-12-01 This book is the first omnibus history of the literature of the American Civil War, the deadliest conflict in US history. *A History of American Civil War Literature* examines the way in which the war has been remembered and rewritten over time in prose, poems, and other narratives. This history incorporates new directions in Civil War historiography and cultural studies while giving equal attention to writings from both northern and southern states. It redresses the traditional neglect of southern literary cultures by moving between the North and the South, thus finding a balance between Union and Confederate texts. Written by leading scholars in the field, this book works to redefine the boundaries of American Civil War literature while posing a fundamental question: why does this 150-year-old conflict continue to capture the American imagination?

Writers in Retrospect Claudia Stokes 2007-10-16 In the aftermath of America's centennial celebrations of 1876, readers developed an appetite for chronicles of the nation's past. Born amid this national vogue, the field of American literary history was touted as the balm for numerous "ills--from burgeoning immigration to American anti-intellectualism to demanding university administrators--and enjoyed immense popularity between 1880 and 1910. In the first major analysis

of the field's early decades, Claudia Stokes offers important insights into the practices, beliefs, and values that shaped the emerging discipline and have continued to shape it for the last century. She considers particular personalities--including Thomas Wentworth Higginson, William Dean Howells, Brander Matthews, and Mark Twain--and episodes that had a formative effect on American literary history as a discipline. Reexamining the field's deep attachment to the literature of antebellum New England, the periodization of the nineteenth century, and the omission of Native narratives, Stokes reveals the many forces, both inside and outside the academy, that propelled the rise of American literary history and persist as influences on the work of current practitioners of the field.

Postcolonial Theory and the United States Amritjit Singh 2000-08-08 Probing essays that examine critical issues surrounding the United States's ever-expanding international cultural identity in the postcolonial era Download Plain Text version At the beginning of the twenty-first century, we may be in a "transnational" moment, increasingly aware of the ways in which local and national narratives, in literature and elsewhere, cannot be conceived apart from a radically new sense of shared human histories and global interdependence. To think transnationally about literature, history, and culture requires a study of the evolution of hybrid identities within nation-states and diasporic identities across national boundaries. Studies addressing issues of race, ethnicity, and empire in U.S. culture have provided some of the most innovative and controversial contributions to recent scholarship. *Postcolonial Theory and the United States: Race, Ethnicity, and Literature* represents a new chapter in the emerging dialogues about the importance of borders on a global scale. This book collects nineteen essays written in the 1990s in this emergent field by both well established and up-and-coming scholars. Almost all the essays have been either especially written for this volume or revised for inclusion here. These essays are accessible, well-focused resources for college and university students and their teachers, displaying both historical depth and theoretical finesse as they attempt close and lively readings. The anthology includes more than one discussion of each literary tradition associated with major racial or ethnic communities. Such a gathering of diverse, complementary, and often competing viewpoints provides a good introduction to the cultural differences and commonalities that comprise the United States today. The volume opens with two essays by the editors: first, a survey of the ideas in the individual pieces, and, second, a long essay that places current debates in U.S. ethnicity and race studies within both the history of American studies as a whole and recent developments in postcolonial theory. Amritjit Singh, a professor of English and African American studies at Rhode Island College, is coeditor of *Conversations with Ralph Ellison* and *Conversations with Ishmael Reed* (both from University Press of Mississippi). Peter Schmidt, a professor of English at Swarthmore College, is the author of *The Heart of the Story: Eudora Welty's Short Fiction* (University Press of

Mississippi).

The Rights of the Defenseless Susan J. Pearson 2020-09-25 In 1877, the American Humane Society was formed as the national organization for animal and child protection. Thirty years later, there were 354 anticruelty organizations chartered in the United States, nearly 200 of which were similarly invested in the welfare of both humans and animals. In *The Rights of the Defenseless*, Susan J. Pearson seeks to understand the institutional, cultural, legal, and political significance of the perceived bond between these two kinds of helpless creatures, and the attempts made to protect them. Unlike many of today's humane organizations, those Pearson follows were delegated police powers to make arrests and bring cases of cruelty to animals and children before local magistrates. Those whom they prosecuted were subject to fines, jail time, and the removal of either animal or child from their possession. Pearson explores the limits of and motivation behind this power and argues that while these reformers claimed nothing more than sympathy with the helpless and a desire to protect their rights, they turned "cruelty" into a social problem, stretched government resources, and expanded the state through private associations. The first book to explore these dual organizations and their storied history, *The Rights of the Defenseless* will appeal broadly to reform-minded historians and social theorists alike.

The Real Negro Shelly Eversley 2004-06-01 In this book, Shelly Eversley historicizes the demand for racial authenticity - what Zora Neale Hurston called 'the real Negro' - in twentieth-century American literature. Eversley argues that the modern emergence of the interest in 'the real Negro' transforms the question of what race an author belongs into a question of what it takes to belong to that race. Consequently, Paul Laurence Dunbar's Negro dialect poems were prized in the first part of the century because - written by a black man - they were not 'imitation' black, while the dialect performances by Zora Neale Hurston were celebrated because, written by a 'real' black, they were not 'imitation' white. The second half of the century, in its dismissal of material segregation, sanctions a notion of black racial meaning as internal and psychological and thus promotes a version of black racial 'truth' as invisible and interior, yet fixed within a stable conception of difference. *The Real Negro* foregrounds how investments in black racial specificity illuminate the dynamic terms that define what makes a text and a person 'black', while it also reveals how 'blackness', spoken and authentic, guards a more fragile, because unspoken, commitment to the purity and primacy of 'whiteness' as a stable, uncontested ideal.

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