

English 302: Douglass Stowe Twain

Professor Michael Drexler

Thursdays, 2-5p

202 Vaughan Lit

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570 713-9364 (cell and text)

### [Skip to Schedule](#)

#### Projects

5-7 page midterm paper / grads 8-10 pages

Weekly close reading exercise

Oral Presentation

Final Project

Critical essay on one or more texts

Prepare one short passage from each text for discussion

10-20 minutes, Carefully prepared and delivered

May be a traditional paper, mixed-media or online, elaborate lesson plan, or annotated bibliography

#### Grades

I prefer to handle grades outside of class during office hours. After each major assignment, please schedule a time to meet with me to discuss your work and your progress. Grades depend entirely on your effort. Don't miss classes, do all of the assigned reading and writing (including recommended revision), participate with vigor and kindness = A. Do the work without the sweat = B. Miss any assigned work = C. Miss more than 1 class = F. An excused absence will not count against you, though you will be required to meet with me to discuss the week's work. These meetings will be in the form of an oral exam. Assume that your absence is not excused if you do not speak with me in advance.

#### Field Trip

Toward springtime, when it is pleasant to be outdoors, I will schedule a day trip to Harper's Ferry in West Virginia. Participation is mandatory, so we will work to find a date amenable to everyone. I will provide transportation.

#### Access Statement

Any student who may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss the specific needs. Please contact Heather Fowler, Director of the Office of Accessibility Resources at [570-577-1188](tel:570-577-1188) or [hf007@bucknell.edu](mailto:hf007@bucknell.edu) who will help coordinate reasonable accommodations for those students with documented disabilities.

#### Learning Goals

##### *English Department Learning Goals*

1 to articulate ideas effectively in discussion and in oral presentations, and

2 to write gracefully, coherently, imaginatively, and persuasively, with proper attention to effective organization.

English 302 fulfills the following University Learning Goals: AHLG ARHC EGHU Click [for more information](#)

**Plagiarism:** plagiarism is the unauthorized use of someone else’s words or ideas. Calling someone else’s work your own is a serious academic offense that will result in referral to the Board of Review on Academic Responsibility.

**Student Work:** assignments must be completed and submitted in the format indicated for the individual assignment on the syllabus.

**Class Cancellation Policy:** In the unlikely event due to emergency, I will contact you via email. In addition, I will contact you as soon as possible following the cancellation to let you know what will be expected of you for our next class meeting.

**Course Communication:** I can be contacted best through email, and I respond to emails from 9am to 5pm. I will do my best to respond to emails within 36 hours, i.e. no later than the next business day, but this is not always possible.

Links

[Chronological Bibliography of North American Slave Narratives](#)

*Thursdays*

January 15 Week 1	Read Walter Johnson, <i>River of Dark Dreams</i> , ch 6, 7, 8 (PDF distributed before classes) William Grimes, <a href="#">The Life of William Grimes, a Fugitive Slave</a> (1825)	
January 22 Week 2	Sibylle Fischer, <a href="#">Review of Buck-Morss Hegel, Haiti, and Universal History</a> David Scott, <a href="#">Review of Hegel, Haiti, and Universal History</a> Susan Buck-Morss, <a href="#">response to Fischer and David Scott Teresa, A Haytien Tale—The Just Teach One Project</a> (1829)  Optional: Buck-Morss, <a href="#">"Hegel and Haiti," Critical Inquiry</a> (2000).  I recommend that you download the files as pdf rather than read them online.	
January 29 Week 3	A Selection of Slave Narratives  Frederick Douglass, <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, Written by Himself</i> (1845)	
February 5 Week 4	Harriet Beecher Stowe, <i>Uncle Tom’s Cabin</i> (1852)	
February 12	Harriet Beecher Stowe, <i>Uncle Tom’s Cabin</i>	

Week 5		
February 19 Week 6	John Brown, <i>Slave Life in Georgia</i> (1854) Josiah Henson, <i>Truth Stranger than Fiction</i> (1858)	
February 26 Week 7	Nat Turner, <i>The Confessions of Nat Turner</i> (1831)	
March 5 Week 8	Harriet Beecher Stowe, <i>Dred, a Tale of the Dismal Swamp</i> (1856)	
March 12	No Class: Spring Break	
March 19 Week 9	Harriet Beecher Stowe, <i>Dred, a Tale of the Dismal Swamp</i> (1856)	
March 26 Week 10	Frederick Douglass, <i>The Life and Times of Frederick Douglass</i> (1892)	
April 2 Week 11	Make up class tba: I'm thinking we will hold this session in Harper's Ferry. Reading will be Martin Delany, <i>Blake, or the Huts of America</i> (1859)	
April 9 Week 12	Mark Twain, <i>Huckleberry Finn</i> (1884)	
April 16 Week 13	Mark Twain, <i>Huckleberry Finn</i> and begin <i>The Tragedy of Pudd'nhead Wilson</i> (1893-4)	
April 23 Week 14	Mark Twain, <i>The Tragedy of Pudd'nhead Wilson</i> W.E.B. DuBois, <i>The Souls of Black Folk</i> (1903), Preface plus Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, 12	