# ELIT 48B

# American Literature 1865-1914

# Course Information Sheet

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| **Instructor:** Becky Roberts  **Email and Website**: [robertsbecky@fhda.edu](mailto:robertsbecky@fhda.edu) http://faculty.deanza.fhda.edu/robertsbecky | **Phone**: (408) 864-5764  **Office**: F11-E  **Hours**: MW 12:30-1:20 TTH 3:40-4:30 |

**Advisory**: Completion of EWRT 1A

**Course Description:**

ELIT 48B will introduce you to a time of intense social, cultural and economic change, with former slaves, women, conquered people and immigrants all shifting the definition of American culture and literature. During this period, American literature develops a clear sense of its identity and difference—still in conversation with European literary culture, but with new and particularly American figures and themes. Writers such as Twain, Dreiser, Wharton and Crane develop American versions of Realism and Naturalism while regional and ethnic writers rise to new literary prominence in this period. I think you will find that these works still speak to us today. This is partly because of their expressive power, but also because the issues—immigration, imperialism, slavery’s legacy, regional differences, industrialization, vast inequalities in wealth and rapid technological change—are still with us.

**Required Materials:** Available at De Anza bookstore

*The Norton Anthology of American Literature: volume C, 1865-1914 (8th Edition)*

Theodore Dreiser, *Sister Carrie*

**Course Goals:**

* Examine literary works of this period from a range of ethnic, gender, cultural, national, and global perspectives
* Demonstrate an understanding of the social and historical contexts as well as prevailing interpretive approaches to literary works in this period
* Analyze literary works from multiple, clearly defined critical perspectives
* Appreciate the contribution of literary works from this period to American culture
* Read with pleasure and analytical delight
* Articulate personal as well as analytical relation to course texts
* Participate enthusiastically in a diverse community of critical readers

**Course Requirements:**

* Keep up with the reading and participate fully in class discussions and activities
* Write exams, in-class quizzes and 2 essays
* Research one text write a report on your research, and serve as an informal “expert” when that text is discussed (the “Supplemental Research” assignment)

**Attendance:** Be on time, bring your books and be ready to participate. Late arrivals (more than five minutes late) and early departures will count as half of an absence. If you miss four meetings or the equivalent before the drop deadline, you will be dropped from the course. If your absences total four or more after the drop deadline, you will receive a grade, but it will reflect a large penalty in participation.

### Participation: Silence and Stow All Electronic Devices

Class discussion gives you the opportunity to check your understanding, develop your ideas, and expand your perspectives by listening to others. Active, self-initiated contribution to discussion is very important to your success and your grade in the class. *Just being physically present will not earn a passing grade for participation. You must volunteer ideas and/or questions in discussion at least once a week.* If you are a quiet student, this class requires you to break out of your safety zone and become more engaged. Likewise, those who always talk in discussion need to be aware of making room for others. I will also work toward making the class the best possible learning environment and I will honor De Anza’s mutual respect policy.

**Late work: I do not accept student work via email.** Exams must be taken on the day they are listed except under extreme circumstances beyond your control. I will accept late essays for up to one week after the due date with a letter grade deduction. The quiz will be given at the beginning of class and cannot be made up. However, one quiz will be dropped (meaning the lowest score is not counted against you). **No Late Quizzes or Supplemental Research assignments.**

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism and cheating include copying someone else’s test or homework, lifting sentences from someone else without quoting (whether the source is published or not) and any small or large act of academic forgery in the work that you submit as your own effort in this class. The penalty is, at minimum, a “0” on that assignment, and an “F” for the course is very likely. In addition, I must report the incident to the dean of students, who may expel habitual cheaters. I will use Turnitin.com as needed.

**Grading:**

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| Exam 1  Exam 2  7 Quizzes (20 each; one dropped)  1 short essay  1 longer essay  Supplemental Research  Participation  **Total possible points** | 100  100  120  80  100  40  100  **600** | A Above 93% A- 90-92%  B+ 87-89% B 83-86%  B- 80-82% C+ 77-79%  C 70-76% D 60-69%  F Below 60% |

Student Resources: I enjoy helping students, so please visit my office hours or email me. However, I must limit my email responses to one paragraph of your essay, so if you want help with your whole paper, you need to come to my office. Drop-in and weekly tutoring is also available in the Writing and Reading Center ATC 309. <http://www.deanza.edu/studentsuccess/writing-reading-center>.

**Equal Opportunity:** If you need an academic accommodation for any disability, such as vision, hearing, orthopedic, learning disabilities, psychological or other medical conditions, you should discuss this with me within the first week of school. I am happy to work with you to meet your needs.