

**English 522.01B**  
**Major American Authors: John Steinbeck**  
**Spring 2018**

**Dr. Karen Roggenkamp**  
**Office: 315 HL**  
**Office Hours: TBA**  
**Email: [Karen.Roggenkamp@tamu-commerce.edu](mailto:Karen.Roggenkamp@tamu-commerce.edu)**  
**Phone: 903-886-5251**



<b>Course Description</b>	This course in Major American Writers examines selected work of John Steinbeck, looking at some of Steinbeck’s most popular and influential—not to mention controversial—novels and stories, read within their cultural, intellectual, and political contexts. We will be reading Steinbeck in the context of 1930s culture, and the aesthetic known as the “Documentary Movement.” As we move through the semester, we will think not only about Steinbeck’s artistic craft and developing aesthetic and philosophical sensibilities, but also his place in this period of American literature and the culture of the Great Depression.
<b>Student Learning Outcomes</b>	For the purpose of measured Student Learning Outcomes Assessment: <u><b>SLO 1</b></u> Students will demonstrate familiarity with some of the contexts and conventions relevant to antebellum American literature and culture, as measured by an ungraded pretest and post-test. <u><b>SLO 2</b></u> Students will demonstrate satisfactory completion of a critical review of scholarly literature, as measured by a checklist for this assignment.
<b>Required Texts</b>	The following works are required for this course (unless otherwise indicated, author is John Steinbeck). In addition, you will have a small number of readings to complete that you will download from eCollege (details provided in schedule of assignments). In general, you may use any edition you like. The ISBNs listed correspond with the editions ordered through the bookstore. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ James Agee, <i>Let Us Now Praise Famous Men</i> (9780618127498)</li> <li>▪ Erskine Caldwell and Margaret Bourke-White, <i>You Have Seen Their Faces</i> (9780820316925)</li> <li>▪ John Steinbeck, <i>America and Americans</i></li> <li>▪ John Steinbeck, <i>Cannery Row</i> (9780140177381)</li> <li>▪ John Steinbeck, <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> (9780140186406)</li> <li>▪ John Steinbeck, <i>In Dubious Battle</i> (9780143039631)</li> <li>▪ John Steinbeck, <i>Harvest Gypsies</i> (9781890771614)</li> <li>▪ John Steinbeck, <i>Of Mice and Men</i> (9780140177389)</li> <li>▪ John Steinbeck, <i>The Pastures of Heaven</i> (9780140187489)</li> <li>▪ John Steinbeck, <i>Working Days</i> (9780140144574)</li> <li>▪ William Stott, <i>Documentary Expression and Thirties America</i> (9780226775593)</li> <li>▪ Richard Wright, <i>12 Million Black Voices</i> (9781560254461)</li> </ul>

<b>Grading Breakdown</b>	<p>Article presentation &amp; handout      15%</p> <p>Article written review (4-5 pp.)      25%</p> <p>Bibliographic Essay (13-15 pp.)      45%</p> <p>Class participation                      <u>15%</u></p> <p><b>Total</b>                                      100%</p>
<b>Article Review</b>	<p>Each student will read and analyze a full-length (e.g. about 20-25 pages) scholarly article on one text during the semester. I will supply the articles in eCollege. When it is your turn, you will do three things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In class, you will “present” your article (about 10 minutes) by summarizing the article’s thesis, main points, supporting arguments, etc.</li> <li>▪ Provide your classmates (and me) with a 1-2 page handout with the essential points from your in-class presentation</li> <li>▪ Write a 5 page (double-spaced) summary and analysis of the article, which you will turn in to me on the day of your presentation. In essence, this paper will explain the article’s argument, main points, and structure. Then you will weigh in how successful the author was in making his/her argument. Do you find it convincing? Why or why not? What are the article’s strengths and weaknesses?</li> </ul>
<b>Other Papers</b>	<p>You will have one major writing assignment in this class, a final bibliographic essay. I will supply further information on this project in class.</p>
<b>Technology Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If I need to contact class members directly, I will use your university email account, so please check regularly.</li> <li>▪ I supplement my courses with select features of eCollege, the Learning Management System used by TAMU-Commerce. You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course page. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Tech Services at 902-468-6000, or <a href="mailto:helpdesk@online.tamuc.org">helpdesk@online.tamuc.org</a>. To complete this course successfully, you will need a computer with internet access (high speed recommended, not dial up) and a word processor equipped with Microsoft Word. Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means our courses work best if you are using a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of a browser like Internet Explorer or Google Chrome. Your course will also work with Macintosh OS x along with a recent version of Safari 2.0 or better. Along with Explorer, Chrome, and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox browser (3.0) on both Windows and Mac operating systems. You will primarily use eCollege to obtain handouts, to submit papers, and to view the course grade book.</li> <li>▪ TAMU-Commerce provides students with technical support in the use of eCollege. Technology problems are not an excuse for a late assignment—make sure you submit your work in time to allow for any problems accessing the Dropbox. You may reach the help desk by the following means, 24 hours a day, seven days a week: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Phone 866-656-5511 to speak with eCollege Technical Support Representatives</li> <li>▪ Email <a href="mailto:helpdesk@online.tamuc.org">helpdesk@online.tamuc.org</a> to initiate a support request with an eCollege Technical Support Representative</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Click the “Help” button on the toolbar for information regarding working with eCollege (e.g. how to submit something to the Dropbox, how to check the grade book, etc)</p>
<b>Attendance</b>	<p>Your attendance in class is crucial, and you cannot expect to do well if you do not attend each meeting (and get here on time). According to the TAMU-Commerce student handbook, “students are expected to be present for all class meetings of any course for which they are enrolled.” I will keep attendance, and you can expect your grade to suffer for absences. Students will be permitted to make up work for excused absences, which include, for instance, participation in a required or authorized university activity, a verified severe illness, or a death in the immediate family.</p>
<b>Additional Policies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ You are responsible for reading and understanding all the items included on this syllabus and on additional materials you receive from me over the course of the term.</li> </ul>

- The Department of Literature and Languages will not tolerate plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty. Instructors uphold and support the highest academic standards, and students are expected to do likewise. Penalties for students who are found guilty of academic dishonesty include failure of the assignment and/or course, disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion. Refer to the Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 13.99.99.R0.10 for details: <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>. Examples of plagiarism include but are not restricted to: turning in an essay written entirely by someone else; copying any portion of someone else's words and presenting those words as your own (e.g. without quotation or citation); copying paragraphs, sentences, or parts of sentences from another source; using the same ideas that you have found in another writer's essay and presenting those ideas as your own; using someone else's basic sentences but changing just a few words (again, without quotation or citation). If you are not clear about how to avoid any of these acts, it is up to you to clarify. Unintentional plagiarism is still plagiarism, and I expect all students to understand what constitutes an act of academic dishonesty.
- All students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.
- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services, Gee Library- Room 132 Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835 Fax (903) 468-8148 Email: [Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu](mailto:Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu); website <http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>
- Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf> and/or consult your event organizer. Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.
- Students who have concerns regarding their courses should first address those concerns with the assigned instructor in order to reach a resolution. Students who are unsatisfied with the outcome of that conversation or have not been able to meet individually with their instructor, whether in-person, by email, by telephone, or by another communication medium, should then schedule an appointment with the Department Head or Assistant Department Head by completing a Student Grievance

Form (available in the main office, HL 141). In the event that the instructor is the Department Head, the student should schedule a meeting with the Dean of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Humanities after following the steps outlined above; if the instructor is the Assistant Department Head, students should schedule a meeting with the Department Head. Where applicable, students should also consult University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.05 (“Student Appeal of Instructor Evaluation”).

**Assignments**

<b>Week 1</b> 2/5	Introduction to course
<b>Week 2</b> 2/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Steinbeck, <i>The Pastures of Heaven</i></li> </ul>
<b>Week 3</b> 2/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Steinbeck, <i>12 Million Black Voices</i></li> <li>▪ Steinbeck, <i>You Have Seen Their Faces</i></li> </ul>
<b>Week 4</b> 2/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Steinbeck, <i>Of Mice and Men</i></li> </ul>
<b>Week 5</b> 3/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Steinbeck, <i>In Dubious Battle</i> (1936)</li> <li>▪ Excerpts from Steinbeck, <i>Log from the Sea of Cortez</i> (in eCollege)</li> <li>▪ Excerpts from Steinbeck letters (in eCollege)</li> </ul>
3/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SPRING BREAK WEEK</li> </ul>
<b>Week 6</b> 3/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Steinbeck, <i>The Harvest Gypsies</i></li> </ul>
<b>Week 7</b> 3/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Steinbeck, <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>, first half</li> <li>▪ Steinbeck, <i>Working Days</i>, first half</li> </ul>
<b>Week 8</b> 4/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Steinbeck, <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>, second half</li> <li>▪ Steinbeck, <i>Working Days</i>, second half</li> </ul>
<b>Week 9</b> 4/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Sullivan’s Travels</i> (film), watch in class</li> </ul>
<b>Week 10</b> 4/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ James Agee, <i>Let Us Now Praise Famous Men</i></li> </ul>
<b>Week 11</b> 4/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Steinbeck, <i>Cannery Row</i></li> </ul>
<b>Week 12</b> 4/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Steinbeck, <i>America and Americans</i></li> </ul>
<b>Week 13</b> 5/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work week</li> </ul>
<b>Finals Week</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Final papers due by 11:59 p.m. in eCollege Week 15 Dropbox Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup></b></p>

**Sign up for critical review of scholarly article (first paper):**

**Week 2 (1/25)** *The Pastures of Heaven*

---

**Week 3 (2/1)** *Tortilla Flat*

---

**Week 4 (2/8)** *The Long Valley*

---

---

**Week 5 (2/15)** *In Dubious Battle*

---

**Week 6 (2/22)** *Of Mice and Men*

---

**Week 8 (3/7)** *The Grapes of Wrath*

---

---

**Week 9 (3/21)** *Cannery Row*

---

**Week 12 (4/4)** *East of Eden*

---

---

**Week 13 (4/18)** *Travels with Charley*

---

**Week 14 (4/22)** *America and Americans*

---