

HUMANITIES SEMINARS PROGRAM

*American Narratives:
Contrasting Visions in American Art and Literature*

Spring 2025

Wednesdays 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
Dorothy Rubel Room, The Poetry Center
and On-Line

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The paintings of Rockwell and Hopper present a dual perspective upon the American scene, the one a portrait of sunshine, the other a portrait of shadows, or put another way, America as the scene of community, family, and friendship (solid American values) and the other a scene of isolation, loneliness and angst, (terrifying empty space). What I would like to do in this course is to explore the different ways Edward Hopper and Norman Rockwell depict multi-faceted America and to extend that exploration to the worlds of color, class and gender in American fiction that lie outside the purview of these two wonderful (albeit white and male) painters

REQUIRED READING AND TEXTS:

Sherwood Anderson's Winesburg, Ohio (1919)
Ernest Hemingway's In Our Time (1925)
Louisa May Alcott's Little Women (1868-69)
James Baldwin's Going to Meet the Man (1965)
Toni Morrison's Beloved (1987)

COURSE CALENDAR:

March 19: Lecture on Norman Rockwell and Edward Hopper, along with readings in PDF files of both artists.

Recommended Movie: Words and Pictures (2013) with Clive Owen and Juliette Binoche. Stream on Amazon Prime

March 26: Sherwood Anderson: *Winesburg, Ohio* (1919)

April 2: Ernest Hemingway: *In Our Time* (1925) and "The Killers" (short story, 1927). online.

April 9: Louisa May Alcott: *Little Women* (1868)

April 16: Toni Morrison: *Beloved* (1987). James Baldwin, "Sonny's Blues," (1957). online.