

**ENG 630-01**  
M 6:00-8:30

**American Periods**

Dr. L. Vickroy

The course will present largely 20th century American novels that have established some crucial themes and re-definitions of the American cultural landscape. The authors address issues such as American mythologies, liberty, materialism, and quest for the self and for an ethical life. We will consider these works through the lens of narrative theory and its inquiries into the ethics and perspectives shaping the interrelationships between text and reader. We will also read and examine a range of critical perspectives on each novel that will further our inquiries into the ethics of reading and challenging cultural mythologies.

Required texts include: Samuel Clemens' *Huckleberry Finn*, William Faulkner's *Go Down Moses*, Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon*, Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*, Barbara Kingsolver's *The Poisonwood Bible*, and Thomas Pynchon's *Vineland*. I will order critical editions when possible.

Grading: discussion, short papers and a research paper.