

FRESHMAN SEMINAR

MARK TWAIN ON FREEDOM AND SLAVERY

Throughout his life, Twain was exceptionally conscious of and reflective on the question of human identity and freedom. In this course we will read closely two of his works, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *Pudd'nhead Wilson*. These books deal with slavery, freedom, America, human identity, the impact of social forces, and the possibility of change.

The course meets 4 times for two hours (1 credit). Requirements are the reading, participation, and a short (5 pages) paper on a topic of your choice (but related to the material). My office hours are W 10-12 of by appointment (tstrong@weber.ucsd.edu) or by accident.

CLASS READINGS

March 30: Introduction. Mark Twain and Sam Clemens; 'American' writing; Twain and humor; the "Notice" and the "Explanatory." Section of Film by Ken Burns.

April 6: (Have the whole book read): Chapters I-33: The River; America's relation to its past; Grangerfords; Duke and Dauphin; conscience; cruelty

April 13: Chapter 33 to end: What is freedom? Who has changed and how?

April 20: *Pudd'nhead Wilson*: Human identify and social conditioning; what is justice? Twain and Twains