American Literature ~ 2nd Semester
Naturalists

First – we will finish up Samuel Clemens - Mark Twain

Naturalism
Darwinism/Evolutionary Thinking in Literature
Features:
- Man’s behavior and actions are shaped by his environment.
- Men are caught in an indifferent and confusing universe of chaos.
- There is no force in the universe kindly disposed toward man.
- Men are victims of fate in the indifferent and confusing universe of chaos.
- Man’s natural condition is one of helplessness against the power of fate.
- Since man is helpless against fate, he is not responsible for his harmful actions.

“There is a flow to history and culture. This flow is rooted and has its wellspring in the thoughts of people. Most people catch their worldview from their family and surrounding society the way a child catches measles. But people with more understanding realize that their presuppositions should be chosen after a careful consideration of what world view is true.”

-Dr. Francis Schaeffer

Stephen Crane
Poems
- “A Man Said to the Universe”
- “I Saw a Man Pursuing the Horizon”
- “God Fashioned the Ship of the World”

Short Stories
- “The Open Boat” – Best Known
- “The Bride Comes to Yellow Sky”

Novels
- Maggie: A Girls of the Streets – First Novel
- The Red Badge of Courage

Jack London
Remembered most for his adventure stories about dogs
Short Stories
- “The Law of Life”
Novels
- The Call of the Wild

Frank Norris
Benjamin Franklin Norris
Inspired by Emile Zola – a French Realist
Novels
- The Octopus