



Instructor: J. DeLombard

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Course Number: ENG435H5F

Course Title: Privacy in American Literature

Course description: What is privacy? Whose interests are served by it? What kinds of people and places are associated with it? Who invades it and how? What is its relationship to publicity? Is it the same thing as secrecy? Is it indispensable to dignity? Can – and should – it be protected? By whom, how, and to what end?

These questions preoccupied American literature over the course of the long nineteenth century; not coincidentally, perhaps, the period would end with a landmark essay locating a new right to privacy in intellectual property law. This course will explore relations among personhood, property and privacy in nineteenth-century U.S. literature.

Required Reading:

J. Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur, Introduction, *Letters from an American Farmer*

Catherine Maria Sedgwick, “Cacoethes Scribendi”

Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life...*

Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*

Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*

Continued...

Constance Fenimore Woolson, *For the Major*
Edward Bellamy, *Looking Backward: 2000-1887*
Samuel Warren and Louis Brandeis, “The Right to Privacy,” *Harvard Law Review* (Dec. 1890)
Henry James, “The Aspern Papers”; “The Reverberator”; “In the Cage”
Henry James, *Tragic Muse* or *Portrait of a Lady*
Pauline Hopkins, *Contending Forces*
Pavesich v. New England Life Insurance Company
Edith Wharton, *The Touchstone*
Griswold v. Connecticut
Posner, Richard A. “The Right of Privacy”, *Georgia Law Review* 12, 393-422.
Post, Robert C. “The Social Foundations of Privacy: Community and Self in the Common Law Tort,” *California Law Review* 77, 957-1009; “Rereading Warren and Brandeis: Privacy, Property, and Appropriation,” *Case Western Law Review* 41, 647-80.

First Three Texts/Authors to be Studied:

(as above)

Method of Instruction:

Lecture/Discussion

Method of Evaluation:

- Participation
- 2 Quizzes
- Term Test
- Introduction and Outline
- 8-10 pp. Term Paper