

01:050:261 American Bestseller

We will read representative best-selling novels (beginning with Susannah Rowson's Charlotte Temple [1791], the first American best-seller, ending with more contemporary best-selling fiction) as texts indicating something about the values and assumptions of their readers. We will pay some attention to reader-response theory, the history of publishing, and the place of reading in American culture. Course work will include two short papers, one quiz, and one exam.