

English 139: Individual Authors – Mark Twain
Summer Session A – Professor Robert Maniquis

Tuesday/Thursday, 4:15-6:20pm

Royce 164

This course combines lectures and discussions about the two principal novels of Mark Twain: *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. These novels are amongst the most amusing and the most important of all English-language novels. Hemingway said of *Huckleberry Finn* that it marked the real beginning of American literature. It indeed can be argued that not knowing these novels means not really knowing either the history of American literature or its essential genius. In both novels, along with the rich satire of American Calvinism, Twain offers up a hard-edged analysis of American race consciousness. Some politically correct or simply ignorant individuals and committees continually try to suppress the reading of Twain's greatest works. This course flies in the face of such stupidity and approaches all important religious, racial and sexual issues in these novels, while also savoring their rich and sometimes side-splitting comedy.

