

American Literary Naturalism (1900-1914)

- School of fiction shaped by post-Darwinian thought
- Mode of representation that is objective: detailed and detached
- Existing only in the order of nature, humans (higher-order animals) have little to no control over external and internal forces: determinism over free will. Character and behavior are shaped by
 - External forces: environment in which they are raised/grow up: socio-economic/natural world
 - Internal: heredity, instinct
- Humans and the world are subject to scientific, rationalistic investigation
- Pessimistic perspective? Fictional (plot) endings: tragic but not heroic--pawns