ENG255  
Week #1 Reading/Discussion/Writing

READING
- Begin this week’s reading by browsing the scope of ENG255 in the Table of Contents: “The Literature of a New Century, 1912 – 1945” (pages 1863 – 2260). Notice which authors you are familiar with and others whom you would like to become familiar with. Begin to think about your Group Project and your area/author of interest.
- Read Willa Cather’s “Neighbour Rosicky” (pages 1879 – 1900).

CLASS DISCUSSION/GROUPS: On Thursday, we’ll get into small groups for discussion focused on themes that run through the literature of this time period (e.g tropes that we generate in our classroom discussion as well as themes from your text: The Great War, The Age of Business and Frolic; The Alienated Generation; The Immigrant Experience; Racism and Sexism; American Modernists; From the Crash to the New Deal; Social Criticism and Marxism; The Second World War). Let’s think about how all these forces of influence compare to the forces that influence our contemporary lives. Prepare well before Thursday’s discussions. We’ll allow time for small group and then large group discussions.

WRITING:
Due Thursday
Choose one or a few from the following:

- Explain the Modernist movement to someone who is unfamiliar with the themes of American literature. Consider including any of the social/political/cultural forces that you’ve read about in the assigned chapter to explain this literary movement.
- This one is about our time/our place (contemporary America). Think about the forces (social/political/cultural) that influence you as a reader/writer and/or that influence our contemporary writers. Identify these forces and writers and compare them with the forces that influence the modernist literature from 1912 – 1945.
- Cather’s story, which was written on the cusp of the Great Depression, explores the theme of happiness beyond economic gain. Write about Rosicky’s “gift,” his “talent” for loving by placing it within the framework of social/cultural movements of the time.
- Cather’s story follows the path of the immigrant experience. How would you identify this story as a work of modernist fiction?
- Build on the previous two questions by updating the particulars of Cather’s story; consider rewriting a particular scene or dialogue between characters. Then explain in what ways your update compares.

FORMAT
- Word process
- Write one (and only one please) FULL page single-spaced
- Include a heading in the upper left-hand corner (your name, date, ENG255, WW#1)