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## What is an American? Anthology of the 1890s

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# What is an American?

## Voices of the 1890s

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The purpose of this project was to allow senior English majors enrolled in English 424 (Advanced Topics in Literature) to produce a literary anthology from idealized conception through publishable product. The project's focus is on the environment, African-American, Native-American, Women's Equality, and Minority Populations within the United States during this time.



### Table of Contents:

#### *The Children*

*Yosemite—Going Out*

*The American Forests*

*To the Person Sitting in Darkness*

*Official Protest to the Treaty of Annexation*

*Negro Patriotism*

*Queen and Pauper*

*Solitude of Self*

*Voting Mothers*

*The Mothers' Meeting at Tuskegee*

*Mr. Fox and the Deceitful Frogs*

*A Negro Schoolmaster in the New South*

*Maple Leaf Rag*

*Lynching*

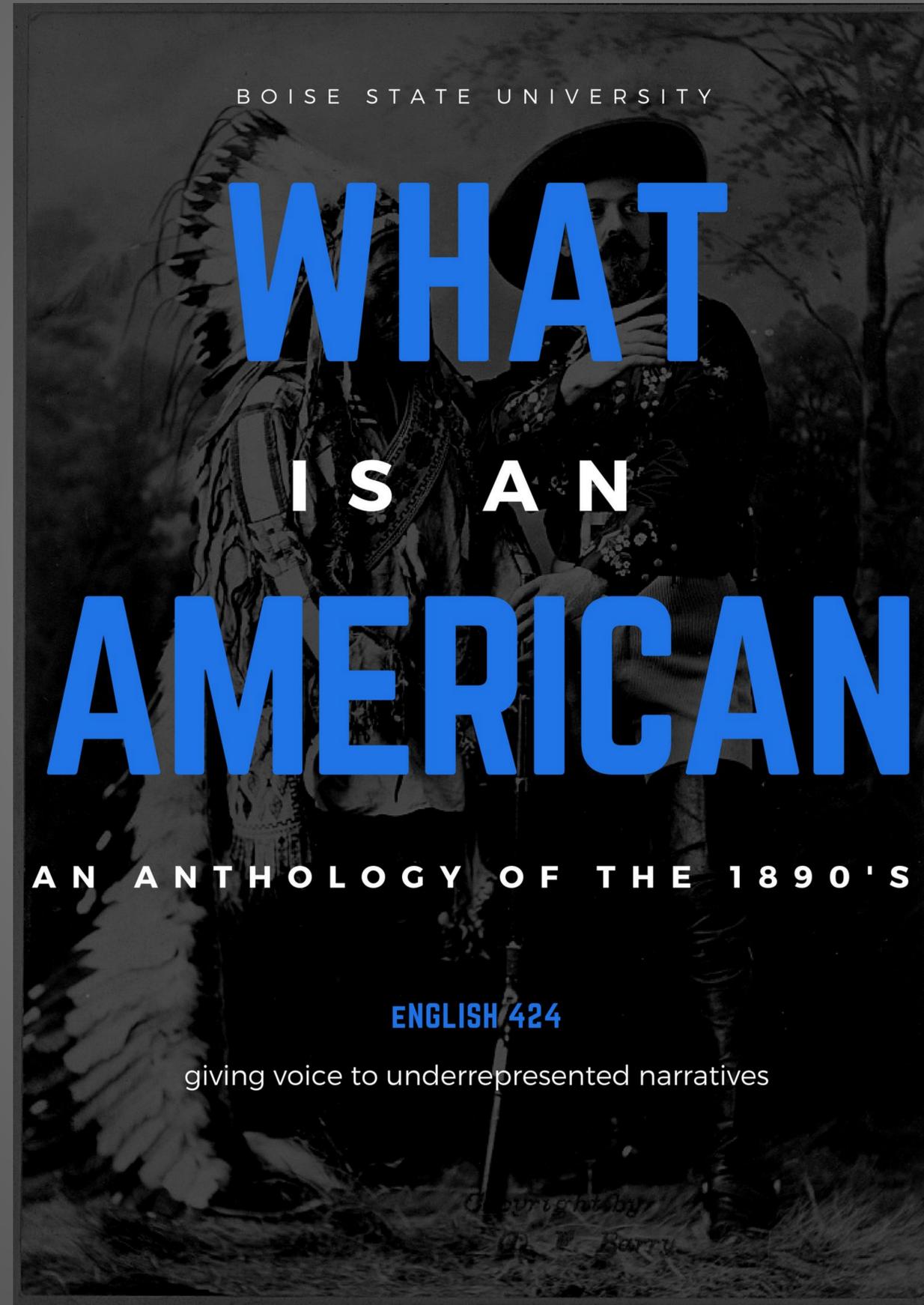
*The Indian in Transition*

*Stiya: or, a Carlisle Indian Girl at Home*

*Why I am a Pagan*

### Methodology

➤ In order to produce our anthology we discussed advantages and disadvantages of other anthologies, analyzing their editorial choices as well as our experiences reading them. Through extensive research in online databases such as *Making of America*, *Hathi Trust*, *Harvard Open Collections*, as well as the print archive of *Century Magazine* in Boise State University's library, the class collectively made the decision to focus on the 1890's. Owing to the parallels between this decade in history and recent events, the topic "what is an American?" was decided on. We began searching for underrepresented voices from this period. We selected and edited lesser-known works to compile in an anthology to best address our question of "What is an American?".



### Passages Selected from Within the Anthology

➤ Elizabeth Cady Stanton, *Solitude of Self*.  
“Whatever the theories may be of women's dependence on man, in the supreme moments of her life, he cannot bear her burdens. In the tragedies and triumphs of human experience, each mortal stands alone.”

➤ John Muir, *American Forests*. “God has cared for these trees, saved them from drought, disease, avalanches, and a thousand straining, leveling tempests and floods; but he cannot save them from fools,—only Uncle Sam can do that.”

➤ Zitkala-Sa, *Why I Am a Pagan*. “Still I would not forget that the pale-faced missionary and the hoodooed aborigine are both God's creatures, though small indeed their own conceptions of Infinite Love. A wee child toddling in a wonder world, I prefer to their dogma my excursions into the natural gardens where the voice of the Great Spirit is heard in the twittering of birds, the rippling of mighty waters, and the sweet breathing of flowers. If this is Paganism, then at present, at least, I am a Pagan.”

➤ W.E.B. Dubois, *A Negro Schoolmaster in the New South*. “There were, however, some such as Josie, Jim, and Ben, they to whom War, Hell, and Slavery were but childhood tales, whose young appetites had been whetted to an edge by school and story and half-awakened thought. Ill could they be content, born without and beyond the World. And their weak wings beat against their barriers, barriers of caste, of youth, of life; at last, in dangerous moments, against everything that opposed even a whim.”

### Acknowledgments

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