

The title of this course suggests that Cather, the most famous novelist to come out of Nebraska, had one world, and it was Nebraska. However, she lived in and wrote about many worlds. Yes, she wrote *My Ántonia*, which celebrates the life of a Czech immigrant to Nebraska, but she also wrote novels about New Mexico in the mid-1800s and Quebec in the late 1600s. Yes, she spent her adolescence in Nebraska, including her years as a student at this very university, but the place she lived the longest was New York City, and she wrote magazine stories about New York opera divas and office workers. She lived for nearly forty years in a happy and satisfying relationship with another woman, magazine editor and advertising copywriter Edith Lewis, and yet she wrote no fiction about women in relationships with other women (although she did write fiction about male characters who have been read as gay). So in this course, we'll read her works across these many worlds, while also dipping into the amazing Cather resources available and produced here in Nebraska. We'll visit special collections in Love Library, which holds more Cather materials than any other library in the world. We'll explore the *Willa Cather Archive*, a digital humanities project produced here at UNL that gives access to amazing array of resources, including about 3,000 of Cather's letters. And we'll take a class trip to the National Willa Cather Center in Red Cloud, because although she wrote about places other than Nebraska, it is amazing to see the places she fictionalized in her Nebraska novels and short stories. Students will write regularly throughout the semester in shorter forms and will be required to produce a longer final project.