



Frank Norris and American Naturalism

By Donald Pizer

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“As a collection of Pizer’s most significant essays on Norris, *Frank Norris and American Naturalism* gathers in one place a cluster of essays that reminds us of why Norris is worth studying in the first place—and then goes on to demonstrate an admirably lucid and captivating approach to Norris’s major novels and literary criticism.”

—Keith Newlin, Professor, Department of English, University of North Carolina Wilmington, USA

‘*Frank Norris and American Naturalism*’ brings together in one volume Donald Pizer’s essays on the writings of Frank Norris. The essays as a whole seek to demonstrate both the coherence of Norris’s thought and his contribution toward the establishment of a distinctive form of naturalism in America.

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Preface; Editorial Note and Acknowledgments; Criticism; Introduction: The Literary Criticism of Frank Norris; Frank Norris’s Definition of Naturalism; Frank Norris and the Frontier as Popular Idea in America; Vandover and the Brute and McTeague Evolutionary Ethical Dualism in Frank Norris’s; Vandover and the Brute and McTeague; McTeague and American Naturalism; The Problem of Philosophy in the Novel; The Biological Determinism of McTeague in Our Time; Frank Norris’s McTeague : Naturalism as Popular Myth; The Popular Novels; The Masculine– Feminine Ethic in Frank Norris’s Popular Novels; The Octopus; Another Look at The Octopus; The Concept of Nature in Frank Norris’s The Octopus; Synthetic Criticism and Frank Norris: Or, Mr. Marx, Mr. Taylor and Th e Octopus; Collis P. Huntington, William S. Rainsford and the Conclusion of Frank Norris’s The Octopus; Index.

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Donald Pizer has had a distinguished career as a critic and editor of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century American literature and as an interpreter of the history and nature of American literary naturalism. Among his most well-known works are *Realism and Naturalism in Late Nineteenth Century American Literature* and *The Theory and Practice of American Literary Naturalism*. Pizer’s books about Frank Norris include a critical study *The Novels of Frank Norris* and editions of *The Literary Criticism of Frank Norris* and *McTeague*; he has also edited the *Library of America* volume, *Frank Norris: Novels and Essays*.

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