**American Literature II**

**English 262**

### *Paper 2 (in three parts)*

**Reminder: By all means come see me during office hours! (erinpenner.youcanbook.me)**

We’ve been slowly taking things apart in our discussions of *As I Lay Dying,* considering how characters who are “close” to one another (whether in physical proximity or in social/family relationships) experience the world very differently.

And yet Faulkner isn’t simply dismantling things, cutting off characters from one another, unraveling social bonds, and undermining the maps, genealogies, and narratives by which we articulate connection. Even as he challenges some of the means by which we claim kinship, he offers, in his narrative, tools for rebuilding meaningful relationship.

Just because maps, genealogies, and language are artifacts of human desires, conditions, and limitations doesn’t make them “meaningless”; Faulkner’s novel helps us remember that we can not only squeeze ourselves into existing forms, but also become creators or reinventors of such tools. How can we use new forms that yet are intelligible to an audience that knows only the existing ones? How can we *educate* our readers and listeners into new ways of hearing us? In what is, I hope, an appropriately multi-modal approach to Faulkner’s fragmented novel, we’ll be tackling these issues in three parts.

**Destabilizing MAPS: Earthquake, Flood, and Narrative Contribute to the “Faulkner Bend”**

- 28 February: In-class discussion, with the help of Digital Yoknapatawpha

**Destabilizing GENEALOGIES: Digital Yoknapatawpha and Faulkner’s Evolving Families**

- 9 March: In-class discussion and examples

**- Noon 20 March: Paper 2.1: Collaborative Interpretive Genealogy**

**- 21 March: In-class presentation of Collaborative Interpretive Genealogy**

**Destabilizing LANGUAGE: Giving Shape to Experience, or What Can Language Build?**

**- 28 March: Paper 2.2: Faulkner’s Carpentry: A Linguistic Analysis**

**- 11 April: Paper 2:3: A Linguistic Artifact and Critique**