**American Literature II**

**English 262**

***Paper 2.2: Faulkner’s Carpentry: A Linguistic Analysis (10%)***

**Due at the Start of Class on 28 March 2023**

**3-page minimum**

In a tight paper, take just one brief section of Faulkner’s novel (a passage from one narrative chapter, or short pairing of them) and show us what Faulkner **builds** from the seeming Tower of Babel of his characters’ different languages and priorities. How *does* he build something from the “leaky” or “treacherous” vessel of language?

You can focus on *either* what he helps readers to see anew through one character’s perspective or how he creates meaning *across* different characters’ narrations. What new ways of using language draw out unexpected nuances of experience? If language is conventional, how does he use convention while not limiting what can be conveyed through it?

This is a great opportunity to ***return to your commonplaces***: what caught you off-guard in your initial reading of the novel? What made you think again about ordinary things like family or desire or land? Ultimately, our goal is to challenge Addie’s claim that language is just a “lack,” using any part of her author’s novel to do so.

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<http://faulkner.iath.virginia.edu/media/resources/MANUSCRIPTS/AILDMS8.html>

Text, letter

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<http://faulkner.iath.virginia.edu/media/resources/MANUSCRIPTS/AILDMS8.html>

[Transcription: Not even by Anse. He had a word too; love he called it. But I had been used to words for a long time. I knew that that word was like the others: just a shape to fill a lack; that when  
the right time came, you wouldn't need the word. Cash did not need to say it to me nor I to  
him, and I would say, let him use it, if he wants to. So that it was Anse or love; love or Anse:  
it didn't matter.]