

COURSE OUTLINE

English 357 - Southern Literature  
Professor Lucas Carpenter  
Spring 2003 Semester

**I. Objectives of the Course**

Through class participation, the close reading of assigned literary works, objective tests, two critical essays (5 printed pages), a mid-term examination, and a final examination, the student will be graded on his/her ability:

- A. To identify and examine the major themes and styles characteristic of Southern literature.
- B. To recognize and define the various literary-historical backgrounds against which Southern literature appears.
- C. To trace the development of a uniquely "Southern" literature.
- D. To establish and explore the timeless concerns of the literature to be read in the course and how those concerns speak directly to the contemporary reader.

**II. Student Requirements for Completing the Course**

- A. Brief quizzes which will precede the discussion of assigned literary works. There are no make-ups for missed quizzes.
- B. Several in-class writing assignments and presentations. There are no make-ups for these assignments.
- C. Two formal critical essays (5 typed pages) to be assigned later. One letter grade will be deducted for each day a paper is late.
- D. Midterm examination composed of factual and essay questions devoted to the literature covered in the first half of the course.
- E. A comprehensive final examination composed of factual and essay questions.
- F. Satisfactory participation in class discussion, which can only be accomplished if the attendance policy is rigorously observed.

**III. Attendance Policy**

- A. Although attendance is not mandatory, it is to the student's distinct benefit to be present in class, and the student will be held responsible for any assignments made when he/she is absent. After three (3) absences, one point will be deducted from the final grade for each additional absence.
- B. Students who are late must assume personal responsibility to see that the record is altered at the end of class. This record will not be changed at a later date.

#### IV. **Grading Practices**

The grade will be determined by an evaluation of the entire semester's work, with special emphasis on fulfillment of course objectives. Grading will generally adhere to the following:

Class participation	5%
Quizzes and in-class writing	15%
Two formal essays	40%
Midterm exam	15%
Final exam	25%

#### V. **Textbooks**

As I Lay Dying, by William Faulkner

Light in August, by William Faulkner

Their Eyes Were Watching God, by Zora Neale Hurston

Invited Guest, ed. Brown and Rigsbee

All the King's Men, by Robert Penn Warren

Three by Flannery O'Connor, by Flannery O'Connor

Ballad of the Sad Cafe and Other Stories, by Carson McCullers

The Last Gentleman, by Walker Percy

A Feast of Snakes, by Harry Crews

#### VI. **Weekly Outline of Topics to be Covered**

January 15-17	Preliminary: The American South
January 20-24	Faulkner, <u>As I Lay Dying</u>
January 27-31	Faulkner, <u>Light in August</u>
February 3-7	Faulkner, <u>Light in August</u>
February 10-14	Hurston, <u>Their Eyes Were Watching God</u>
February 17-21	Poetry from <u>Invited Guest</u> Renaissance <b>1st Essay Due</b>
February 24-28	Warren, <u>All the King's Men</u>
March 3-5	Warren, <u>All the King's Men</u> The Fugitive Agrarians <b>Mid-term Examination</b>

March 10-14	Spring Break
March 17-21	Fugitive Agrarians Poetry from <u>Invited Guest</u>
March 24-28	O'Connor, <u>Wise Blood</u>
March 31-April 4	McCullers, <u>Ballad of the Sad Cafe</u>
April 7-11	Percy, <u>The Last Gentleman</u>
April 14-18	Percy, <u>The Last Gentleman</u> Styron, <u>Sophie's Choice</u>
April 21-25	Styron, <u>Sophie's Choice</u> <b>2nd Essay Due</b>
April 28	Last Class
May 6 (9 am – 12 noon)	<b>Final Examination</b>

#### VII. Office Hours

My office is located in Humanities, Room 105, and my office hours are the following:

**Mondays - Fridays**  
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

If these hours are ever inconvenient, appointments can be arranged. Please do not hesitate to see me about anything that is of concern to you.

#### VIII. Honor Code

I assume that you are familiar with the Honor Code and that you know what **plagiarism** is.