

COURSE OUTLINE

English 357 – Southern Literature (WR) (INQ)

Dr. Lucas Carpenter
Spring 2013 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 the fulfillment of course objectives. Grading will generally adhere to the following:

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| Class participation | 5% |
| Quizzes and in-class writing | 10% |
| Two formal essays | 40% |
| Midterm exam | 20% |
| 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
All the King's Men, by Robert Penn Warren
Wise Blood, by Flannery O'Connor
Sophie's Choice, by William Styron
The Last Gentleman, by Walker Percy
Feast of Snakes, by Henry Crews

VI. Course Calendar

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| January 15-18 | Preliminary: The American South |
| January 21-25 | Faulkner, <u>As I Lay Dying</u> |
| January 28-February 1 | Faulkner, <u>Light in August</u> |
| February 4-8 | Faulkner, <u>Light in August</u> |
| February 11-15 | Hurston, <u>Their Eyes Were Watching God</u> |
| February 18-22 | Hurston, <u>Their Eyes Were Watching God</u> Harlem Renaissance Poetry |
| February 25-March 1 | Warren, <u>All the King's Men</u> 1st Essay Due |
| March 4-8 | Warren, <u>All the King's Men</u> Fugitive Poetry Midterm Examination |
| March 11-15 | Spring Break |
| March 18-22 | O'Connor, <u>Wise Blood</u> |
| March 25-29 | Styron, <u>Sophie's Choice</u> |
| April 1-5 | Styron, <u>Sophie's Choice</u> |
| April 8-12 | Percy, <u>The Last Gentleman</u> |
| April 15-19 | Percy, <u>The Last Gentleman</u> 2nd Essay Due |
| April 22-26 | Crews, <u>Feast of Snakes</u> |
| April 29 | Last Class |
| May 7 2:00-5:00 PM | Final Examination |

VII. Office Hours

My office is located in Seney Hall, The Thinkery, Room 115B, and my office hours are:

Monday – Friday: 2:00-3:00 PM

VIII. Honor Code

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