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Office: Palmer 316
Office Hours: MWF 10:00-11:00
and by appointment

English 485: Senior Seminar: Faulkner and Morrison
MWF 1:00-1:50, Barrett 216

Required Texts

Unflinching Gaze, Kolmerten, Ross, Wittenberg, eds
The Sound and the Fury, William Faulkner
Absalom, Absalom!, William Faulkner
Go Down, Moses, William Faulkner
The Bluest Eye, Toni Morrison
Song of Solomon, Toni Morrison
Beloved, Toni Morrison

Reading Assignments

Aug	24:	Introduction	28:	<i>Absalom, Absalom!</i> , pp. 107-175
	26:	<i>Unflinching Gaze</i> , pp. 3-47	30:	<i>Absalom, Absalom!</i> , pp. 176-234
	29:	<i>The Sound and The Fury</i> , pp.3-75		
	31:	<i>The Sound and The Fury</i> , pp. 76-133	Oct	3: <i>Absalom, Absalom!</i> , pp. 235-End:
Sept	2:	<i>The Sound and The Fury</i> , pp. 133-179	4:	Short Paper #1 Due
	5:	LABOR DAY - NO CLASS	5:	<i>Beloved</i> , pp. 1-63
	7:	<i>The Sound and the Fury</i> , pp. 180-264	7:	<i>Beloved</i> , pp. 64-134
	9:	<i>The Sound and the Fury</i> , pp. 265-321	10:	<i>Beloved</i> , pp. 135-21
	12:	<i>The Bluest Eye</i> , pp. 1-80	12:	<i>Beloved</i> , pp. 214-end
	14:	<i>The Bluest Eye</i> , pp. 81-131	14:	<i>Go Down, Moses</i> , pp, 1-75
	16:	<i>The Bluest Eye</i> , pp. 132-end	17:	FALL BREAK
	19:	<i>Absalom, Absalom!</i> , pp. 1-45	19:	<i>Go Down, Moses</i> , pp. 76-127
	21:	NO CLASS	21:	<i>Go Down, Moses</i> , pp. 131-180
	23:	NO CLASS	24:	<i>Go Down, Moses</i> , pp. 183-243
	26:	<i>Absalom, Absalom!</i> , pp. 46-106	26:	<i>Go Down, Moses</i> , pp. 243-315
			28:	<i>Go Down, Moses</i> , pp. 319-365

Nov	31:	<i>Song of Solomon</i> , pp. 1-89	18:	Presentations of Critical Passage/Research
	1:	Short Paper #2 Due		
	2:	<i>Song of Solomon</i> , pp. 90-151	21:	Opening 4 pages due for Peer Review
	4:	<i>Song of Solomon</i> , pp. 152-285	23:	THANKSGIVING BREAK
	7:	<i>Song of Solomon</i> , pp. 286-337	25:	THANKSGIVING BREAK
	9:	<i>Unflinching Gaze</i> , pp. 48-90	28:	Research Day/ Conferences
		Proposal Due	30:	Research Day/Conferences
	11:	<i>Unflinching Gaze</i> , pp. 91-138	Dec 2:	Paper Presentations
	14:	Annotated Bibliography Due	5:	Paper Presentations
	16:	Presentation of Critical Passage/Research	7:	Paper Presentations
			12:	Final Seminar Paper Due

POLICIES FOR 385

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Not only did Toni Morrison write a masters thesis on William Faulkner, but she has also confirmed in interviews her ambition to compose a "regional literature" like Faulkner's, one that is "good--and universal--because it is specifically about a particular world." In this course, we will read the major novels of Faulkner and Morrison in dialogue with one another, exploring the various ways in which Morrison's work revisits and often rewrites along gender, race, and formal lines Faulkner's generally male-centered modernist work. We will also use the novels of these two American giants as a guide by which to trace the ongoing development of 20th century literary criticism, from New Criticism to post-structuralism.

ASSIGNMENTS: You will write two 5-6 page papers, one on a Faulkner text and one on a Morrison text, as well as a final 20-page research paper pairing a Faulkner and a Morrison novel. The final paper will represent the culmination of the course. Your final paper may, but is not required, to reprise one (1), but not both, of the novels on which you have already written. You are encouraged to devise your own pairings, though you are also free to employ the pairings used in class, provided you don't simply reiterate what we discussed as a group. Finally, you will turn in for formal evaluation both a 2-3 page seminar paper proposal and an annotated bibliography, and deliver at semester's end a formal presentation of your final project.

I will also periodically administer pop "quizzes" on the assigned reading. A passing grade on one of these quizzes will not affect your grade and will not even be recorded, whereas a failing grade on the quiz will be recorded as an absence. (See below under ATTENDANCE.)

GRADING: All assignments—both formal papers and presentations—are subject to the honor code. This means that, at the end of each assignment, you will write out the honor pledge *in full* and sign it. All work will be evaluated on the basis of the grading scale outlined on page 74 of the current Rhodes College Catalogue. Your final grade for the course will be computed as follows:

Short Paper 1	15%
Short Paper 2	15%
Proposal/Annotated Bibliography	10%
Paper Presentation	10%
Seminar Paper	50%

ATTENDANCE: Because I place a great deal of emphasis on the daily readings and our discussions of them, your attendance and participation in class are not only mandatory but will also constitute a fairly large portion of your final grade. If you don't attend, your final grade will suffer. You are allowed three (3) absences free-of-charge. You are to use these absences in the event that you are sick, away on a college-related event, or unable to attend for whatever other reason. In other words, there are no "excused" or "unexcused" absences, per se. You may simply miss class three times, free of charge. After you have used up those three absences, each absence beyond those two will cost your *final course* average two tenths of a point. If you miss more than eight (8) classes—three weeks of the semester, in other words—you will fail the course. Simple as that.

NOTE: I reserve the right to alter this policy in the face of special circumstances, such as a prolonged, unexpected illness or the like.

LATE PAPERS: All papers are due on the day stipulated on the syllabus. Any unexcused late assignment will be penalized a two-tier reduction per day late; in other words, an A becomes a B+, a B+ becomes a B-, and so on.

PROBLEMS? You can send me a voice mail, an e-mail, or even an old-fashioned hand-written a note. **Do not abuse the email system.** Don't email to ask me a question about something that is on your syllabus, that you could ask me in person, or that a fellow student in the class can answer. Don't email me to ask what you missed in class that day. And don't email me to set up an office visit *unless you have classes scheduled during my office hours*. Otherwise, email is the way to go.

PAPER REQUIREMENTS: All formal papers in this class are to be typed, double-spaced, and pledged in full. You will use the MLA documentation format, which we'll discuss in class.