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ENGL 225-01, Southern Literature, Fall 2009

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Authors	Boswell, Marshall
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Professor: Marshall Boswell
 Office Phone/Voice Mail: 843-3581
 E-Mail: boswell@rhodes.edu

Office: Palmer 319
 Office Hours: MWF 1:00-2:30 p.m.
 and by appointment

English 225: Southern Literature

MWF 10:00-10:50 and 11:00-11:50: Kennedy 207

Required Texts:

So Red the Rose, Stark Young
Jubilee, Margaret Walker
The Sound and the Fury, William Faulkner
All the King's Men, Robert Penn Warren
Thirteen Stories, Eudora Welty
The Complete Stories, Flannery O'Connor
The Collected Stories, Peter Taylor
A Lesson Before Dying, Ernest Gaines
The Last Gentleman, Walker Percy

Course Description: We will read, analyze, and write about works of Southern American fiction written and published during the 20th century. Beginning with two novels that offer contrasting accounts of the antebellum, Civil War, and Reconstruction eras, we will continue to chart changes in the region via novels and short stories that provide a complex picture of the South's attempt to come to terms with its antebellum myths. The course will also explore the centrality of race in the Jim Crow period, as well as the brooding religious eschatology that has shaped the region's collective sense of destiny. Writing assignments will conduct close readings of individual texts. There will also be two exams focusing on the reading assignments.

Aug	26	Introduction	26	<i>Thirteen Stories</i> , pp. 171-End
	28	<i>So Red the Rose</i> , pp. 1-100	28	O'Connor: "A Good Man is Hard to Find," "The Life You Save May Be Your Own,"
Sept	31	<i>So Red the Rose</i> , pp. 100-223		
	2	<i>So Red the Rose</i> , pp. 224-314	30	O'Connor: "The Artificial Nigger," "Good Country People" "
	4	<i>So Red the Rose</i> , pp. 314-end		
	7	Labor Day	Nov	2
	9	<i>Jubilee</i> , pp. 1-80		O'Connor: "The Circle in the Fire," "The Displaced Person"
	11	<i>Jubilee</i> , pp. 81-174		4
				O'Connor: "Everything That Rises Must Converge," "Revelation
	14	<i>Jubilee</i> , pp. 177-258		6
	16	<i>Jubilee</i> , pp. 259-341		Taylor, "Dean of Men," "The Other Times"
	18	<i>Jubilee</i> , pp. 342-435		
	21	<i>Jubilee</i> , pp. 436-end		9
	23	<i>The Sound and the Fury</i> , pp. 1-75		Taylor, "At the Drugstore," "What You Hear From 'Em?'" "A Wife of Nashville"
	25	<i>The Sound and the Fury</i> , pp. 76-179		11
				Taylor, "Venus, Cupid, Folly and Time," "1939"
	28	<i>The Sound and the Fury</i> , pp. 180-264		13
	30	<i>The Sound and the Fury</i> , pp. 265-end		Taylor, "Guests," "Heads of Houses"
Oct	2	<i>All the King's Men</i> , chapter 1		16
				Paper #2 Due
	5	<i>All the King's Men</i> , chapters 2-3		18
	6	Paper #1 Due		<i>A Lesson Before Dying</i> , pp. 1-79
	7	<i>All the King's Men</i> , chapters 4-5.		20
	9	<i>All the King's Men</i> , chapter 6.		<i>A Lesson Before Dying</i> , pp. 80-159
	12	<i>All the King's Men</i> , chapters 7-8		23
	14	<i>All the King's Men</i> , chapters 9-10.		<i>A Lesson Before Dying</i> , pp. 160-end
	16	Midterm Exam		25
				Thanksgiving
	19	Fall Break		27
	21	<i>Thirteen Stories</i> , pp. 15-84		Thanksgiving
	23	<i>Thirteen Stories</i> , pp. 85-170		30
			Dec	2
				<i>The Last Gentleman</i> , pp. 1-81
				<i>The Last Gentleman</i> , pp. 81-160
				<i>The Last Gentleman</i> , pp. 160-247
				7
				<i>The Last Gentleman</i> , pp. 247-326
				9
				<i>The Last Gentleman</i> , pp. 327-end
				11
				Final Paper Due

English 225: Southern Literature Course Requirements

ASSIGNMENTS: You will write three papers in this class. Each paper will conduct a close reading of some aspect of one of the assigned works, whether a novel, a short story, or a series of stories by the same author. The first two papers will be 3-4 pages in length and must represent your own interpretation; in other words, they *cannot* employ secondary critical sources (though they can employ other sorts of secondary sources, about which I will say more in class). The final paper, which should clock in at roughly 6-8 pages, *must* employ at least two pieces of secondary critical material from refereed journals or respected publishing houses. There will also be two exams—one at midterm and the other at the end of the semester—designed to test your knowledge of the assigned texts.

QUIZZES: I will give a number of pop quizzes throughout the semester. These will consist of 3 questions aimed at determining whether or not you have done the reading. A passing grade on a quiz will not affect your grade, whereas a failing grade will be counted as an absence. Hence you will never need to “make up” a quiz.

GRADING: All writing assignments 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 in the current Rhodes College Catalogue. Your final grade for the course will be computed as follows:

Paper 1	20%
Paper 2	20%
Paper 3	30%
Exams	15% x 2

ATTENDANCE: You may miss three classes, excused or otherwise, totally free of charge. An F on a pop quiz will count as an absence, as will failure to bring your book to class. Absences after those initial three will cost your *final course* average two tenths of a point. I make no distinction between “excused” and “unexcused” absences. So if you can attend, you should. **If you miss more than eight classes, you will fail the course.**

LATE PAPERS: All papers are due on the day stipulated on the syllabus. Any unexcused late assignment will be penalized a tier reduction per day late; in other words, an A becomes an A-, a B+ becomes a B, and so on. A paper turned in a week after the due date will receive an F and may result in failure in the course.

PROBLEMS? Take care of them in advance. I am more than happy to work with you if you give me enough lead time. For instance, if you need an extension on a paper, you must request one at least a week before the paper’s due date. Do not email me with questions that you could just as reasonably ask me in person the next class period. I will try to respond immediately to emails sent during the week but won’t answer emails sent over the weekend, unless they are particularly urgent.

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. All papers must not only be written by you but must be written specifically for this class. All papers and exams are subject to the Honor System.