

## ENGL 225-02, Southern Literature, Fall 2008

Item Type	Syllabus
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Publisher	Memphis, Tenn. : Rhodes College
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Download date	2025-01-13 06:02:10
Link to Item	<a href="http://hdl.handle.net/10267/3450">http://hdl.handle.net/10267/3450</a>

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 and by appointment

English 225: Southern Literature

MWF 10:00-10:15:50 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  
*The Member of the Wedding*, Carson McCullers  
*The Collected Stories of Eudora Welty*, Eudora Welty  
*The Complete Stories*, Flannery O'Connor  
*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 20<sup>th</sup> 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	27	Introduction	24	<i>The Member of the Wedding</i> , p. 75 end	
	29	<i>So Red the Rose</i> , pp. 1-100			
Sept	1	<b>Labor Day</b>	27	<i>Golden Apples</i> , pp. 3-97	
	3	<i>So Red the Rose</i> , pp. 100-223	29	<i>Golden Apples</i> , pp.98-156	
	5	<i>So Red the Rose</i> , pp. 224-314	31	<i>Golden Apples</i> , pp.157-181	
	8	<i>Red the Rose</i> , pp. 314-end	Nov	2	<i>Golden Apples</i> , pp.230-end
	10	<i>Jubilee</i> , pp. 1-80		5	O'Connor: "A Good Man is Hard to Find," "The Life You Save May Be Your Own."
	12	<i>Jubilee</i> , pp. 81-174		7	<b>Paper #2 Due</b> /Weinstein Visit
	15	<i>Jubilee</i> , pp. 177-258			
	17	<i>Jubilee</i> , pp. 259-341		10	O'Connor: "The Artificial Nigger," "Good Country People"
	19	<i>Jubilee</i> , pp. 342-435		12	"The Circle in the Fire," "The Displaced Person"
	22	<i>Jubilee</i> , pp.436-end		14	O'Connor: "Everything That Rises Must Converge," "Revelation"
	24	<i>The Sound and the Fury</i> , pp. 1-75			
	26	<i>The Sound and the Fury</i> , pp. 76-179			
Oct	29	<i>The Sound and the Fury</i> , pp. 180-264		17	TBA
	1	<i>The Sound and the Fury</i> , pp. 265-end		19	<i>A Lesson Before Dying</i> , pp. 1-79
	3	<i>All the King's Men</i> , chapter 1		21	<i>Lesson Before Dying</i> , pp. 80-159
	6	<i>All the King's Men</i> , chapters 2-3		24	<i>A Lesson Before Dying</i> , pp. 160-end
	7	<b>Paper #1 Due</b>		26	Thanksgiving
	8	<i>All the King's Men</i> , chapters 4-5.		28	Thanksgiving
	10	<i>All the King's Men</i> , chapter 6.			
	13	<i>All the King's Men</i> , chapters 7-8	Dec	1	<i>The Last Gentleman</i> , pp. 1-81
	15	<i>All the King's Men</i> , chapters 9-10.		3	<i>The Last Gentleman</i> , pp. 81-160
	17	<b>Midterm Exam</b>		5	<i>The Last Gentleman</i> , pp. 160-247
	20	<b>Fall Break</b>		8	<i>The Last Gentleman</i> , pp. 247-326
	22	<i>The Member of the Wedding</i> , pp. 1-75		10	<i>The Last Gentleman</i> , pp. 327-end
				12	<b>Final Paper Due</b>

## 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?** Anytime you have a problem about an assignment, PLEASE get in touch with me. You can send me a voice mail, an e-mail. You can even resort to the old-fashioned method of leaving a hand-written note in my box in Palmer Hall. **Do not abuse the email system, however.** In other words, do not email me to seek absolution for missing a class, or to find out what we discussed, or to seek information that you could reasonably get from a classmate

**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.