

ENGL 7478 TEXTUALITY AND IDENTITY: SOUTHERN LITERATURE

ONLINE COURSE
University of Memphis, Fall 2002
Dr. Leigh Anne Duck

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on a few convergences of genre and period in order to examine various ways in which "southernness" has been constructed and contested. We will situate this process in relation to both regional history and culture and national literary trends. We will pay particular attention to the structures of identification proposed or staged by each text.

TEXT REQUIREMENTS:

All of the readings for the first two units are available online, at the University of North Carolina's *Documenting the American South*, the New York Public Library's *Digital Schomburg African American Women Writers of the 19th Century*, and the University of Virginia's *American Studies* site. You may, of course, prefer to buy the novels. You will need to buy the more recently published novels:

- Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
- William Faulkner, *Light in August*
- Harper Lee, *To Kill a Mockingbird*
- Alice Walker, *Meridian*

All of these books are available from online booksellers, and are generally accessible through local bookstores; also, all are or will be on sale at the University Bookstore.

ASSIGNMENTS:

This syllabus contains information on paper due-dates; to learn more about paper assignments, see "Policies." You are also required to participate in this course's online discussion, though I expect that you will also choose to voluntarily post questions and ideas. In any event, posting requirements for each discussion are specified in the "Assignments" for each sub-unit found in "Course Content." Information about grading is also available in "Policies."

UNIT I: Literature of Slavery and Sectional Conflict

AUG. 26-SEPT. 3: "Patriotic Poems"

- "Land of the South," Alexander Beaufort Meek (1838)
- "Maryland, My Maryland," by James Ryder Randall (1861)
- "Music in Camp," by John Reuben Thompson (1863)
- "Ode," by Henry Timrod (1867)

- "The Conquered Banner," by Abram J. Ryan (1868)
- "Ode to the Confederate Dead," by Allen Tate (1927)

SEPT. 3-SEPT. 11: Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (1861)

SEPT. 11-SEPT. 16: "Southwestern Humor"

Choose at least one from each writer:

- Augustus Baldwin Longstreet: "An Interesting Interview," "The Mother and her Child," "The Turf" (1835)
- Thomas Bangs Thorpe: "The Big Bear of Arkansas" (1854)
- George Washington Harris: "Sut's New-Fangled Shirt," "Snake-Bit Irishman," "Sut at a Negro Night-Meeting" (1867)

UNIT II: Realism, Allegory, and Local Color

SEPT. 16-SEPT. 24: Mark Twain, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* (1889)

SEPT. 24-SEPT. 30: "Local Color"

- **Alice Dunbar-Nelson** (choose one): "A Story of Vengeance" (1895), "Little Miss Sophie" (1895)
- **Kate Chopin** (choose two): "La Belle Zoraïde" (1894), "A Dresden Lady in Dixie" (1897), "Desiree's Baby" (1894), "Caline" (1897), "A Respectable Woman" (1897)
- **Joel Chandler Harris** (choose at least one folktale and character sketch from selections)
- **Thomas Nelson Page** (choose one): "No Haid Pawn," "Polly: A Christmas Recollection" (1897)

SEPT. 30-OCT. 8: Charles Chestnutt, *The Marrow of Tradition* (1901)

OCT. 11: FOR PERSONS WRITING 2 PAPERS, PAPER #1 DUE!

UNIT III: Modernism

OCT. 8-OCT. 24: Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937)

OCT. 24-NOV. 11: William Faulkner, *Light in August* (1932)

OCT. 30: FOR PERSONS WRITING MAJOR RESEARCH PAPER ONLY, PROSPECTUS DUE!

UNIT IV: Looking Forward/Backward to the Civil Rights Era

NOV. 11-NOV. 18: Harper Lee, *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1960)

NOV. 15: FOR PERSONS WRITING 2 PAPERS, PROSPECTUS FOR FINAL PAPER DUE!

NOV. 18-NOV. 27: Alice Walker, *Meridian* (1976)

FINAL PAPERS

DEC. 2: FOR PERSONS WRITING MAJOR RESEARCH PAPER ONLY, FIRST DRAFT DUE!

DEC. 6: FOR PERSONS WRITING 2 PAPERS, FINAL PAPER DUE!

DEC. 9: FOR PERSONS WRITING MAJOR RESEARCH PAPER ONLY, FINAL PAPER DUE!