

Fall 8-15-2005

ENG 3706-001: American Regional Literature

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ENGLISH 3706: AMERICAN REGIONAL LITERATURE
Twentieth-Century Southern Fiction

Fall 2005
 Section 001; CH 3170 (1400-1515)

Dr. Zahlan
 3556 CH, 581-6977, cfarz@eiu.edu

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesdays and Thursday, 3:25-5:45 (1525-1745); By Appointment

AIMS OF THE COURSE

Our study of U.S. regional literature will focus on twentieth-century fiction from the American South. Some of this country's most distinguished novelists and short-story writers come from the southern states, and we will read their works both as examples of narrative art and in the context of national and sectional experience. Southern writers--black and white, male and female--engage issues of racial and social justice that are of concern to all Americans, but they may be said to engage them with particular intensity. Southern narratives often convey acute awareness of the persistent shadow of the past.

The course will offer opportunities to practice and improve skills in critical reading and thinking, as well as in oral and written communication. English 3706 is a writing-intensive course, and therefore a substantial percentage of the evaluation of student work is based on written assignments (papers, exams, in-class writing). Class participation is also important; regular attendance and conscientious preparation are required.

TEXTS

Faulkner, *Absalom, Absalom!* Forkner and Samway (eds), *Stories of the Modern South*;
 Frazier, *Cold Mountain*; McCullers, *The Member of the Wedding*;
 Toomer, *Cane*; Warren, *All the King's Men*;
 Wolfe, *O Lost* (Restored text of *Look Homeward, Angel*)
 RECOMMENDED: *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*.

ASSIGNMENTS

WEEK I

Tuesday, 23 August: Introductions & Assignments
 Thursday, 25 August: Flannery O'Connor, "Good Country People," *Stories*, 302ff.

WEEK II

Tuesday, 30 August: Charles Frazier, *Cold Mountain* (Read 3-202 for today.)
 Thursday, 1 September: *Cold Mountain* (Read through page 259 for today.)

WEEK III

Tuesday, 6 September: *Cold Mountain* (Finish the novel for today.)
 Thursday, 8 September: *Cold Mountain* (concluded)

WEEK IV

Tuesday, 13 September: William Faulkner, *Absalom, Absalom!* (Read first five chapters for today.)
 Thursday, 15 September: *Absalom, Absalom!*

WEEK V

Tuesday, 20 September: *Absalom, Absalom!* (Have the novel finished by today.)

Thursday, 22 September: *Absalom, Absalom!* (concluded);

WEEK VI

Tuesday, 27 September: Toomer, *Cane*, Part I

Thursday, 29 September: Toomer, *Cane*, Part One (concluded)

Paper One due in Class

WEEK VII

Tuesday, 4 October: Mid-Term Exam (Bring pens and exam booklets to class.)

Tuesday, 6 October: Gaines, "The Sky Is Gray," *Stories*, 168ff.

Discussion of Paper One

WEEK VIII

Tuesday, 11 October: Wolfe, *O Lost*, Part One (Have pages 5-176 read for today.)

Thursday, 13 October: Wolfe, *O Lost* (Part One concluded)

WEEK IX

Tuesday, 18 October: Wolfe, *O Lost*, Part Three (Have pages 425-662 read for today.)

Thursday 20 October: Wolfe, *O Lost*, Part Three

WEEK X

Tuesday, 25 October: Robert Penn Warren, *All the King's Men* (Read Chapters I--IV for today.)

Thursday, 27 October: *All the King's Men* (Read through Chapter VI for today.)

(Consider carefully the significance of Chapter IV.)

WEEK XI

Tuesday, 1 November: Complete *All the King's Men*.

Thursday 3 November: NO CLASS MEETING --Reading and Research Day

WEEK XII

Tuesday, 8 November: *All the King's Men* concluded

Read Carson McCullers, *The Member of the Wedding*

Thursday, 10 November: *The Member of the Wedding*

Prospectus due for Paper II

WEEK XIII

Tuesday, 15 November: *The Member of the Wedding* (concluded)

Ellen Gilchrist, "Revenge," *Stories*, 207ff.

Thursday, 17 November: Truman Capote, "Children on Their Birthdays," *Stories*, 58ff.

WEEK XIV

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY--NO CLASS MEETINGS

WEEK XV

Tuesday, 29 November: Eudora Welty, "The Wide Net," *Stories*, 469ff.

Thursday, 1 December: Fred Chappell, "Blue Dive," *Stories* 76ff.

WEEK XVI

Tuesday, 6 December: Doris Betts, "The Ugliest Pilgrim," *Stories* 36ff.

Thursday, 8 December: Paper II due in class on this date; Exam Review; Farewells

CUMULATIVE FINAL EXAM SCHEDULED: _____

ENGLISH 3706 GRADE CALCULATION

Daily Preparation, Participation, Oral Presentation of Papers, In-Class Written Assignments=25%

Paper I = 10%; Mid-Term Exam = 10%; Paper II = 30%; Cumulative Final Exam = 25%

ENGLISH 3706 JOURNAL ASSIGNMENT

Keep a separate notebook, journal, and/or blog for 3706 in which you write both initial and considered responses to reading assignments and class discussion. Also use your journal to take notes on background and other "outside" research and reading that you do in connection with this course. From time to time you will be asked to write written responses in class, and you should add them into your journal when they are returned. Use your journal also to list new terms or other words that you encounter and wish to include in your permanent vocabulary. Use your journal as a source of material for your papers and as an aid in reviewing for tests and exams. I will not review or grade journals (although I will be happy to discuss entries or material with you at your request.)

Fall 2005

ENGLISH 3706--COURSE POLICIES

Dr. Zahlan

English 3706 is a writing-intensive course; performance on written assignments (including tests and exams) is therefore a very important basis of evaluation. Class preparation and participation is also very important and also an important basis of evaluation. Class attendance (prerequisite to participation), punctuality, preparation, and participation are expected and required. You are presumed to be professionals-in-training responsible for attending class regularly and participating intelligently and constructively in discussion.

ASSIGNMENTS are to have been completed by class time on the date for which they appear on the syllabus. The book(s) in which the day's assignments are contained should be brought to class. Unannounced quizzes on assigned material may be given at any time. Students are responsible for all material covered in class and all announcements or assignments made in class as well as for all assignments on the syllabus.

EXAMS: There will be no opportunities to make up a missed exam or scheduled oral report other than in cases of documented medical emergency; (signing in at Health Service does not constitute documentation of a medical emergency). The mid-term and final exams should be written on test booklets, available at the Union Book Store.

ALL PAPERS AND OTHER WRITTEN WORK must be handed in on the date due.

1. Work turned in late without advance clearance will not be accepted.
2. Work turned in late with clearance will be penalized, usually at the rate of 5 points per day.
3. Any lateness may delay the grading and return of the paper, perhaps until the end of term.

BE SURE TO KEEP A COPY OF EVERY PAPER YOU HAND IN. It is advisable to keep an electronic copy as well as a hard copy of every paper you submit. IN THE CASE OF A MISSING PAPER, THE STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPPLYING A COPY.

A NOTE ON THE PRESENTATION OF PAPERS: Papers must be computer-printed (or typed & double-spaced) on heavy or medium-weight white 9 x 11 paper. Computer print must be clear and dark laser or ink-jet. Be sure pages are separated and edges removed. Leave adequate margins. Each paper must have a separate title sheet which includes the title of the paper, course title, instructor's name, student's name, and date of submission. Repeat the title at the top of the first page of text. Papers must be stapled or clipped with the pages in the correct order.

English 3706 Course Policies/continued

Presentation of Papers/continued:

ONLY PAPERS THAT ARE NEAT AND IN CORRECT FORM CAN BE ACCEPTED.

DOCUMENTATION: Use the current MLA system to cite both primary and secondary sources used in your papers. The system is fully explained and illustrated in current handbooks. Inform yourself about documentation conventions for electronic media information and materials. All such materials must be documented and citation forms are illustrated in recent handbooks; go to the Writing Center for assistance. Electronic-media materials must be evaluated for quality at least as scrupulously as print materials. Please remember that you must absorb and process all materials: downloading is not research.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: All written work (papers, exams, tests, quizzes) must be original and independent. Do not resort to prefabricated papers and research materials found on the net. Please make sure that you understand the meaning of plagiarism and the policy of the English Department:

Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism--"the appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author and representation of them as one's original work" (Random House Dictionary of the English Language)--has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of the grade of F for the course, as well as to report the incident to the university's Judicial Affairs Office. Respect for the work of others should encompass all formats, including print, electronic, and oral sources.

ELECTRONIC WRITING PORTFOLIO: If you plan to use a paper from English 3706 for your Electronic Writing Portfolio, please make an appointment by 1 December for me to go over the paper and fill out the form—do not hand me a diskette in class. Bring a corrected text of the paper saved to a diskette in richtext. Bring also the form filled out online and printed.

STUDENTS WITH DOCUMENTED DISABILITIES: If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodation, you must make arrangements through the Office of Disability Services; you should contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.