ENG 5010-001: William Faulkner and Toni Morrison

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5010: WILLIAM FAULKNER and TONI MORRISON
Prof. Guszlowiski, Fall '97

Office: 320 Coleman Hall
Phone 581-6973
TTH 9-12 am, TH 6-7pm, & by appt.

Course Objectives: The purpose of this course is to give the student a general background in the fiction of Faulkner and Morrison. We will look at novels by these authors and how these works speak to each other. We will also look at how these authors respond to the literary, existential, social, historical and cultural conditions of the worlds they live in.

Course Requirements: Reading of Assigned Texts
Paper 100 points
Summary-analysis papers 100 points
Mid Term 100 points
Final Exam 100 points

Grades: 360 - 400 points = A
320 - 359 points = B
280 - 319 points = C
240 - 279 points = D
0 - 239 points = F

Reading: We're going to read a lot of works, and a number of them will be difficult. I expect you to keep up. If I come to feel that students are not doing the assigned reading, I will start giving reading quizzes on the material. The grades for these will be factored into the final grade.

Let me also say here that some of the reading is pretty raw in terms of its portrayal of violence and sexual matters.

Paper: You'll write one paper, at least 3000 words long, on the two authors we'll be reading this semester. This paper must be argumentative (proving some significant point) and must be critical (showing an awareness of the critical context the works you are discussing exist in). This final paper should be of professional quality, and although I do not require a publishable paper, I expect one that is at least submittable to a professional journal such as CRITIQUE or MODERN FICTION STUDIES. The papers will be graded on both form and content. Highest grades will go to papers which are most insightfully, thoughtfully, energetically and gracefully written. The papers should be typed and adhere to the MLA format.

The paper is due during the last class. Late papers will be accepted without penalty if there is a valid excuse (too many other papers due is not valid). If the excuse is unacceptable, the paper grade will be dropped a letter grade for each calendar day it is late. More information regarding every aspect of this assignment later in the semester.

Exams: They will be comprehensive, objective and subjective. You will 1) identify characters, situations, images from the novels, 2) identify and explain quotations, 3) explain in short essay answers important issues as they relate to the works, and 4) answer longer essay questions about them.
Summary-Analysis Papers: For each of the novels we are reading, I want each student to find a critical article or book chapter on the work under discussion. (Book reviews and summaries of articles from such sources as CONTEMPORARY LITERARY CRITICISM are not suitable for analysis. Articles from such journals as FAULKNER REVIEW or JOURNAL OF MODERN LITERATURE are okay.) What I want you to do then is write up a summary of the article and then an analysis of it.

Here's the format: First, an MLA-style bibliographical entry for the piece; second, a 100-word maximum, single-spaced, typed summary of the piece; and third, a 100-word minimum critique and analysis of the piece, answering such questions as: if you agree with the reading, why do you agree; if you disagree, why do you disagree; what does the critic need to do to make his article stronger; how can you apply the article to other novels we've read?

These will be collected each week during the class. Each response is worth 10 points. The response must be typed. Also, you will bring in enough copies of your response to pass around.

If the response is late, the grade will be docked a point for each calendar day it is late. Summary responses can be revised for a better grade unless they are late.

Plagiarism: Note the English Dept’s statement: "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 Dict.)--has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course."

Syllabus: We will read ten novels this semester. Some of them will be covered during a class, others during a class and a half or there abouts.

Sound and the Fury, Faulkner
The Bluest Eye, Morrison
As I Lay Dying, F
Sula, M
Light in August, F

mid term

Song of Solomon, M
Absalom, Absalom, F
Beloved, M
Go Down, Moses, F
Jazz, M

final

Special Needs: Students who require academic accommodations should contact Martha Jacques at Disabilities Services (581-6583).