

Professor: Dr. J. Daniel Hasty
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Office: EHFA 208

Class Room: Prince 103
Class Time: MWF 11:00a-11: 50a
Office Hours: MWF 10a-10:50a; T 11a-12p

Tell about the South. What's it like there. What do they do there. Why do they live there. Why do they live at all. —William Faulkner, *Absalom, Absalom!*

There's a Southern accent, where I come from / The young uns call it country / The Yankees call it dumb / I got my own way of talkin / But everything gets done, with a Southern accent / Where I come from. —Tom Petty, “Southern Accents”

We? No, we are not French. We're American, because you're in America, okay? Greatest country on the planet. —Ricky Bobby, “Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby”

Course Description

In this course, we will look at representations of and ideas about what it means to be Southern with a particular focus on how language is involved in these representations. We will look at representations of Southern and Southern English in a variety of modes: short stories, novels, music, film, and pop culture. We will investigate how the representation of Southern English helps develop the trope of Southernness in a variety of ways and how these representations situates the South in a socio-cultural dialogue involving family, place, religion, race, and coping with the past and present of the South. We will draw on traditional literary criticism as well as insights from the various sub-disciplines of linguistics including sociolinguistics, discourse analysis, and literary linguistics.

Required Materials

- *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture: Volume 5 Language*
- Handouts distributed on Blackboard

Learning Objectives

- To identify and critically analyze major themes in Southern Literature, Music, Film, and Culture
- To identify major phonological and morphosyntactic features of Southern English and African American English
- To critically analyze the strategic use of language in Southern Literature, Music, Film, and Culture
- To understand the tensions present in the history and culture of the South

Course Requirements and Evaluation

In this course you will show your familiarity with the primary and secondary sources through weekly reading quizzes, a midterm exam, and a final exam. Your ability to synthesize and analyze primary text through the methods discussed in class will be assessed through weekly discussion questions, class presentations, and a major course paper.

Course Grade Determination

• Quizzes	20%
• Discussion questions	10%
• Presentations	10%
• Paper	25%
• Exams	<u>35%</u>
• TOTAL	100%

Quizzes

There will be daily quizzes. These are meant to assess the level of attention you have given to the readings for the class period. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped, and the average of all the remaining quizzes will be worth 20% of the final grade.

Discussion Questions

There will be nightly discussion questions due in writing on the day of class. This will consist of a one-page response to your choice of 3-5 discussion questions which I will provide for each reading. The responses will be assessed based on the critical insight they show based on the concepts we have discussed to that point. (no discussion questions will be required on the night an individual is presenting.)

Presentations

There will be 2 to 4 presentations. These are meant to show your ability to synthesize the approaches we have discussed in class and show this through analysis of the texts as well as to present new material to the class. Additionally, one of the presentations will be an oral version of the research you are doing for your course paper.

Paper

There will be one major paper (5-8 pages) for the course. This is meant to be a close reading of a text not covered under the course readings (i.e., not something already required) which shows application of the methods of analysis we have discussed in class. The paper must center on representations of the South and the use of language in the text you choose. You can choose a single text or a series of texts by a single author. You will also present your paper in oral form as a presentation to the class near the end of the semester before the final paper is due.

Exams

There will be 3 exams. The exams will assess your level of retention of the important aspects of the texts we have read as well as the theories we have discussed for analyzing language in those texts. The exams will involve identifications of key passages and characters as well as essays in which you synthesize and apply the concepts and themes we have discussed in class.

Policies and Procedures

Attendance

To do well in this class, it is essential that you be in class each meeting. Reading quizzes cannot be made up. Excessive absences (more than 6) will negatively impact your final grade.

If you are unable to attend a class for any reason, you are responsible for contacting me to receive any materials distributed on that day and to turn in any assignments. You will be held responsible for anything missed during an absence.

Late Work

All work must be turned in at the beginning of class on the date it is due. Late work will not be accepted. (Extenuating circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis)

Academic Integrity

Cheating in any form will not be tolerated. See the university's policy on academic integrity.

Classroom Etiquette

All cell phones and iPods must be turned off and put away during class. It is disrespectful to the professor and your fellow students to be giving your attention to anything other than the class discussion taking place.

You are expected to conduct yourself in a professional manner regarding your interaction with the professor as well as with your fellow classmates. Lively discussion and multiple viewpoints are encouraged in this class; however, you are always expected to respond in a professional manner towards the ideas and opinions of your classmates.

This schedule is tentative and subject to change as necessary.

week	date	description
1	19-Aug	Intro to class, What is Southern?
	21-Aug	What is English?
	23-Aug	Poe "The Gold Bug"; Gullah
2	26-Aug	Poe "The Gold Bug"; Southern Literary Themes
	28-Aug	Intro to Southern English (<i>Language</i> 1-27)
	30-Aug	Old Southwest Humor: Hooper "The Captain Attends a Camp-meeting"
3	2-Sep	Labor day
	4-Sep	Longstreet "The Horse Swap"
	6-Sep	GW Harris "Sut Lovingood's Daddy, Acting Horse"
4	9-Sep	GW Harris Preface from <i>Sut Lovingood. Yarns Spun by a "Nat'ral Born Durn'd Fool"</i>
	11-Sep	Linguistic Insecurity, Dialect and Humor
	13-Sep	<i>Sweet Home Alabama</i> ; Being and Sounding Southern
5	16-Sep	Southern rock; Southern Pride
	18-Sep	Exam 1
	20-Sep	Page "Marse Chan"; Myth of the Old South:
6	23-Sep	Page "Marse Chan" (cont)
	25-Sep	African American English
	27-Sep	JC Harris "The wonderful Tar-Baby Story" and "How Mr. Rabbit was too sharp for Mr. Fox"
7	30-Sep	Chesnutt "The Goophered Grapevine"; Slavery
	2-Oct	Country Music: Place, Pride, Sound
	4-Oct	Samuel Clemens <i>The Adventures of Huck Finn</i> ; Literacy and Satire
8	7-Oct	Samuel Clemens <i>The Adventures of Huck Finn</i> ; Religion and Race
	9-Oct	Samuel Clemens <i>The Adventures of Huck Finn</i> : Religion, Race, and Literacy
	11-Oct	<i>Duck Dynasty</i> : Redneck, Place
9	14-Oct	<i>Duck Dynasty</i> : Redneck, Place
	16-Oct	Exam 2
	18-Oct	Student Holiday
10	21-Oct	<i>Talladega Nights</i> ; Parody of South
	23-Oct	<i>Talladega Nights</i> ; Parody of South
	25-Oct	The New South; Realism, Modernism, and Post Southern (Dr. Dan Turner)
11	28-Oct	Faulkner "Dry September"; Race, Sexuality
	30-Oct	Faulkner the Dilsey section of <i>The Sound and the Fury</i> ; Communication Struggles
	1-Nov	Faulkner the Dilsey section of <i>The Sound and the Fury</i> ; Communication Struggles
12	4-Nov	Welty "Where is the voice coming from"; Race, Religion, Realism
	6-Nov	<i>Walk the Line</i> ; Religion, Music, Prison
	8-Nov	<i>Walk the Line</i> ; Religion, Music, Prison
13	11-Nov	<i>Oh Brother Where Art Thou</i>
	13-Nov	<i>Oh Brother Where Art Thou</i>
	15-Nov	Bluegrass and Newgrass

14	18-Nov	Dirty South Rap
	20-Nov	Exam 3
	22-Nov	present
	25-Nov	Thanksgiving
	27-Nov	Thanksgiving
	29-Nov	Thanksgiving
15	2-Dec	present
	4-Dec	present
	6-Dec	Final Paper Due, 11am