

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2018

English 4369.01: American Regional (Southern) Literature: 3 credit hours

MEETING LOCATION: Evans 353

MEETING TIMES: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30-10:50 a.m.

PROFESSOR: Dr. Linda J. Webster

OFFICE LOCATION: Evans 306

PROFESSOR CONTACT INFORMATION: Tel. # and Voice Mail: 294-1425
E-mail: LindaWebster@shsu.edu
Eng. Dept. Fax #: 936/294-1408

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays and Thursdays: 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.; 2:00-3:30 p.m.
Others by appt. only

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will focus on various forms and types of American Regional Literature, particularly Southern Literature. We will cover a variety of topics and figures as we read texts from the turn of the century, selections of mid-century modernist literature, and works of postmodernism from our contemporary South. Through the texts, we will examine the attitudes, assumptions, and values that have traditionally informed Southern literature and those that challenge “the canon.” The readings of the course will be organized around five major themes: racial concerns, the old and new South, gender and women’s issues, humor and the southern grotesque, and religion/loss of religion. Readings for the course will encompass various genres (short stories, drama, essays, novellas, novels), and represent such major literary figures as Kate Chopin, Zora Neale Hurston, William Faulkner, Carson McCullers, Flannery O’Connor, Tennessee Williams, Ralph Ellison, Alice Walker, and Lee Smith, among others.

Prerequisite: 15 hours of English

Class will be conducted primarily as a combination of lecture and class/group discussion. Students are expected to actively participate in class discussions and presentations.

A detailed course calendar, announcing class assignments, activities, due dates, and reminders, will be distributed separately. Dr. Webster reserves the right to make changes to this calendar at any time during the semester. These will be announced during class.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- ***Learn to *analyze* and *critically evaluate* ideas, arguments, and points of view
- **Gain a broader understanding and appreciation of intellectual/cultural activity (music, science, *literature*, etc.)
- **Gain factual knowledge (terminology, classification, methods, trends)

REQUIRED TEXTS: *It is the student's responsibility to obtain the following texts at the beginning of the semester.**

Andrews, William L., ed. *The Literature of the American South: A Norton Anthology*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., Inc., 1998. ISBN: 9780393316711.

McCullers, Carson. *The Ballad of the Sad Café and Other Stories*. 1936. New York: Bantam, 1983. ISBN: 9780553272543.

Smith, Lee. *On Agate Hill*. Chapel Hill: Algonquin Books, 2007. ISBN: 9781565125773.

Packet for English 4369 –Dr. Webster from **Copy Time (Eagle Graphics)** 1304 Sam Houston Ave., Ste. B

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

The university stresses the importance of punctuality and regular attendance. All students are expected to attend every class, and attendance will definitely be taken into consideration in final computation of a student's course grade. Attendance will be recorded each class day, so a student must notify the professor of a legitimate absence BEFORE class time on that day (via e-mail or phone message). With appropriate prior notification of a student's absence, the professor will work with the student to make up any missed work. A student who misses more than THREE classes during the semester is in danger of **failing the course**.

GRADE DETERMINATION:	Exam #1	20%	GRADING SCALE: 90-100=A
	Exam #2	20%	80-89 =B
	Term Paper	30%	70-79 =C

Final Exam	20%	60-69 =D
Average of daily grades	10%	59 or below=F

All exams, term papers, and daily work will be returned to the student within a reasonable amount of time. There will be **NO extra** credit offered in this course.

EXAMS: There will be 2 one-hour exams and a final two-hour exam. The first exam will be totally subjective (short answer and/or essay) and completed IN CLASS only. The second exam and the final exam will be 50% subjective and 50% objective (matching, multiple choice, etc.). The subjective portions will be completed outside of class and submitted to BLACKBOARD by class time on exam day.

A student must notify the professor of a **legitimate** absence, i.e., emergency, BEFORE class time on exam day (via e-mail or phone message). With appropriate **prior** notification of a student's absence, the professor will work with the student to make up the missed exam.

TERM PAPER: You will choose a paper topic from the list provided in your course packet and write a 9-12 page fully developed, insightful, critical analysis (text must be a minimum of 9 pp. w/o Works Cited page) using at least five secondary sources and carefully following MLA format for documentation and Works Cited page. The paper must be neatly typed and error-free and should comply with all **MLA guidelines** for spacing, etc. See information provided in the packet. Once you choose a topic, you should immediately notify the professor as only one student per topic will be allowed. ***Do NOT put this off until the week before the paper is due!*** This project will require much time, dedication, and preparation outside class. Students will be given at least one class day to work independently on their term papers. I expect an insightful discussion, so choose something that interests you. This paper will count 30% of your final grade for the course. Throughout the semester, there will be periodic checkpoints during the process of producing your term paper. These will be marked on your class calendar, along with expectations for your progress.

TURN-IT-IN.COM (through BLACKBOARD):

All out-of-class essays (for second two exams) and TERM PAPER will be submitted to Dr. Webster through Turn-it-in.com via BLACKBOARD. No hard copies will be submitted. Instructions will be provided in class. ***No credit will be given for a paper that is not submitted through this site.***

DAILY GRADES: These grades may consist of quizzes (both announced and unannounced), questions over reading assignments and/or lecture notes, and credit for class preparation and participation. Any student who has all his/her daily grades at the end of the semester may drop his/her lowest grade. No grade will be dropped for anyone who misses a daily grade without notifying the professor ahead of time. (See ATTENDANCE POLICY above.) A student may only miss 2 daily quizzes without being penalized. In the event a student misses an unannounced quiz due to an absence about which he/she has informed the professor ahead of time, the slot for the quiz grade will be filled with the grade the student earns on the following unannounced quiz. This will enable responsible students to have the full number of daily grades at the end of the semester.

WRITING-ENHANCED CREDIT:

This course is designated writing-enhanced. According to Sam Houston State University, you must take at least six courses that carry the designation writing-enhanced. The official definition of a writing-enhanced course is one in which 50% or more of the grade is based on written assignments. In this course, more than 50% of your semester grade is based directly on your writing.

SHSU WRITING CENTER: Sam Houston State University Writing Center, located in Farrington 111, is open daily. Specific hours will be announced and posted on The Writing Center's website. Writing tutors will work with you one-on-one to help you generate a draft, organize a draft, or revise a draft of any assignment. You can just drop by to work with a tutor or call 936/294-3680 to schedule an appointment. <http://www.shsu.edu/wctr>.

SHSU READING CENTER: The Center seeks to promote the acquisition of and use of reading strategies and to promote independent learning which will motivate learners to value literacy throughout their lives. The Center is staffed and equipped to assist students with their expository reading in a variety of learning environments, such as: individual tutoring sessions, small group tutoring sessions, computer assisted tutoring sessions. For more information, go to the website: <http://www.shsu.edu/~rdg.www/> or call 936/294-3114.

INSTRUCTOR EVALUATIONS:

All students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT:

1. Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the University.
2. Students are prohibited from using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking in inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction.
3. Students should bring appropriate materials to class every day. The course packet and textbook or paperback novel should be with you at **every** class meeting.
4. Drinks (nonalcoholic) may be consumed during class. Snacking is also allowed if it does not distract other students or the professor.
5. Except in the rare case of an absolute emergency, **leaving the classroom during class time is considered rude and inappropriate and will not be tolerated. Only when the professor dismisses class should students leave the room.** In a special situation where a student needs to leave early on a particular day, he/she should discuss the matter with the professor BEFORE class.
6. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with University policy.

CELL PHONES, LAPTOP COMPUTERS, PAGERS, ETC.:

Only with a formal request from the Counseling Center will a student be allowed to use ANY electronic device during class to aid in the learning process.

As members of the classroom community, all students have a responsibility to others who are a part of that community. The goal is to produce an environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and other students with respect. Cell phones, laptop computers, pagers, and similar devices have become increasingly a part of everyday life in our society; however, when used in the classroom environment they can become disruptive. Students are to turn off all cell phones and other electronic equipment while in the classroom. When cell phones or pagers ring and students respond in class or leave class to respond, it disrupts the class. ***Therefore, the use by students of cell phones, pagers, or similar communication devices during scheduled class-time is prohibited.*** All such devices should be turned off or put in a silent (vibrate) mode and ordinarily should not be taken out during class. If there is an emergency situation for a student, that student should inform the instructor and place himself/herself in a seat near the door where an exit for a phone call would be only minimally disruptive. With instructor approval, students may record lectures, take notes via laptop computer, etc., provided that they do not disturb other students in the process. Other exceptions to this policy may be granted at the discretion of the instructor. Any use of cell phones or other electronic devices during a test period is prohibited. Even the visible presence of a cell phone or other device during the test period may result in a zero for that test. Use of a cell phone during a test could result in a charge of academic dishonesty. During the test these instruments should be left at home or stored securely in such a way that they cannot be seen or used by the student.

For a complete copy of Student Guidelines, see:

http://www.shsu.edu/students/StudentGuidelines2007_2008.pdf

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: A paper/assignment that can be proven to have been plagiarized will receive an automatic zero (whether its worth is 10% or 50% of the grade). The second offense will lead to an automatic F for the entire course.

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: [Dean of Student's Office.](#)

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY: Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: "a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20...." A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: </dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/861001.pdf>.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center . They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM: Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

COURSE OUTLINE: GENERAL TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR SEMESTER'S ACTIVITIES
ENGLISH 4369 Spring 2018

A detailed course calendar, announcing class assignments, activities, due dates, and reminders, will be distributed every four weeks. Dr. Webster reserves the right to make changes to this calendar at any time during the semester. These will be announced during class.

Weeks 1-4:

Jan 18th-Feb 8th

Course Introduction

Racial Issues:

Chopin "Désirée's Baby"

Faulkner: "Dry September"

Wright: "Long Black Song"

Ellison: "Battle Royal" (*Invisible Man*)

Ellison: "Trueblood Chapter" (*IM*)

Hurston: "How It Feels to be Colored Me"

Wolfe: "The Child By Tiger"

Checkpoint #1: February 8th

Weeks 5-8:

Feb 13th-Mar 8th

The South: Old & New:

Faulkner: "A Rose for Emily"

Faulkner: "Barn Burning"

Faulkner: "An Odor of Verbena"

****EXAM #1: Feb 20th****

Williams: *A Streetcar Named Desire*

Smith: *On Agate Hill*

Weeks 9-12:

Mar 20th-Apr 12th

Smith: *On Agate Hill* cont'd

Checkpoint #2: March 20th

Gender Issues:

Chopin: "The Storm"

Chopin: "A Pair of Silk Stockings"

Chopin: "The Story of an Hour"

Hurston: "Sweat"

****EXAM #2: April 3rd****

McCullers: *The Ballad of the Sad Café*

Walker: "Roselily"

Walker: "Her Sweet Jerome"

Weeks 13-16:

Apr 17th-May 10th

Porter: "Rope"

Checkpoint #3: April 19th

Humor & the Southern Grotesque:

Welty: "Petrified Man"

Smith: "Between the Lines"

Religion and/or Loss of Faith:

O'Connor: "Greenleaf"

O'Connor: "Good Country People"

O'Connor: "Revelation"

O'Connor: "Parker's Back"

****TERM PAPERS DUE**: May 3rd****

FINAL EXAMS: May 7th-10th

****FINAL EXAM: Thursday, May 10th: 9:30-11:30 a.m.**