

UNIV 7200
Liberal Studies Seminar
The Modern American South
Course Syllabus

Required Texts:

Southern Culture: An Introduction, 2nd ed.—Beck, Frandsen

Dixie Rising: How the South Is Shaping American Values, Politics, and Culture—Peter Applebome

The Faulkner Reader—William Faulkner

The Collected Stories of Eudora Welty—Eudora Welty

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof—Tennessee Williams

Before Women Had Wings—Connie May Fowler

Optional Text:

The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture: Volume 4, Myth, Manners and Memory—ed. by Charles Reagan Wilson

(Since you will not be assigned to read all works in the Faulkner and Welty anthologies, you are not required to purchase these two textbooks as long as you can find the assigned selections elsewhere.)

Course Description:

UNIV 7200 is a course designed to highlight the modern South, focusing particularly on its politics, its music, its religion, and its literature. In addition to its emphasis on the South and its culture, this course will address the human condition. The three most important emphases of this course are analytical reading, critical thinking, and academic writing.

Course Objectives:

- Ability to read and think clearly
- Ability to respond insightfully to others' ideas
- Ability to express ideas in an organized and effectively structured standard format
- Ability to see connections in human experiences

Course Topics:

- The Old and New South—Overview
- Political climate in the South
- Musical contributions in the South
- Religious climate in the South
- Literary heritage in the South

Assignments:

- Readings
- Discussion posts and responses
(Modules 1-4 = 5 points each; Module 5 = 8 points) Total for discussions = 28 points
- Book review—15 points
- Three field trips and three response papers—7 points each = 21 points
- Thesis and outline of researched paper—6 points
- Researched paper—20 points
- Final exam—10 points

- **Discussion Posts**

Discussion posts and responses to classmates' posts are an important part of this course. There are **discussion requirements for each module**. You will post your own discussions by a certain date; then you will respond to at least two classmates' posts by a certain date. Your own answers should reveal depth of thought, and the answer to each question should be a minimum of a few sentences; your responses to others' posts should also reveal depth of thought as well as respect for others' opinions, even if you disagree. Before you respond to someone, you should carefully review the discussion threads. Responses like "I agree" or "Great comment" without explaining why you agree or why you consider the comment "great" will cause you not to receive credit for that discussion response. Also, you may respond to a few specific answers of a classmate, or you may respond overall. Whatever you choose to respond to, you need to respond fully—with insight and clarity.

- **Field Trips and Response Papers**

You are required to write responses to three field trip experiences; in other words, to enrich your Southern experience, you will be visiting places that represent some part of the Southern experience. Each of these responses should be approximately one to three pages in length (Times New Roman, 12-point font). Your purpose is not simply to

describe the museum or the pilgrimage or the battlefield or the studio, but to state and support one or two main points regarding your reflections on **how this place contributes to the Southern temper**. You may write one paragraph as you focus on one idea, or you may write two or more paragraphs as you focus on two or more ideas. Be sure to organize and edit carefully. Along with the responses, you must submit a copy of your receipt or other acknowledgement of your visit.

Field Trip Options:

National Civil Rights Museum (Memphis, TN)
Rowan Oak (home of William Faulkner in Oxford, MS)
Shiloh Battlefield (Shiloh, TN)
Graceland (Memphis, TN)
Carl Perkins Rockabilly Museum (Jackson, TN)
Casey Jones Home and Museum (Jackson, TN)
Holly Springs Annual Pilgrimage (Holly Springs, MS)
Slave Haven Underground Railroad Museum (Memphis, TN)
Sun Studio (Memphis, TN)
Memphis Rock and Roll Museum
Cotton Museum at the Memphis Cotton Exchange (Memphis, TN)
Stax Museum of American Soul (Memphis, TN)
A. Schwab Dry Goods Store (Memphis, TN)

(You may deviate from this list only with prior approval from the instructor.)

- **Book Review**

You will submit a book review of Peter Applebome's *Dixie Rising*. The review should be from 3-5 pages (12-point, Times New Roman) and should include the following: a paragraph of introduction, in which you lay out the purpose of the book and its overall appeal; paragraph discussions of the scope of the book, the scholarship, and the extent to which the book fulfills its purpose; a paragraph or two highlighting what you consider to be main strengths or weaknesses of the text; and a paragraph of conclusion.

- **Researched Paper**

You will submit one paper of 8-10 pages of text in which you support a focused thesis based on primary readings and scholarly research. Your topic should address some area of Southern culture—perhaps politics, music, religion, or literature. You must follow academic format and include the following: a title page, a strong introduction which leads to a clear and focused thesis statement, strong supportive developmental paragraphs, and a powerful concluding paragraph. You should use either MLA or APA format. (You must receive approval for your topic and submit your thesis and outline.)

- **Final Exam**

The format of the final exam will be discussion. You need to write full, specific answers. The exam should display your ability to think critically and to support fully.

Grading Scale:

90-100 = A
80-89 = B
70-79 = C
60-69 = D
Below 60 = F

Class Policies:

1. Most importantly, you must carefully read and study all assignments.
2. Class discussion and interactivity are very important.
3. Following proper MLA or APA format when you submit a paper. Carefully note specific rules regarding parenthetical citations and list of sources.
4. Present academic papers that reflect careful proofreading and editing. Papers should be graduate quality.
5. Be disciplined and carefully follow deadlines for submission of work. You must submit work to the dropbox. Late submissions, if accepted, will receive point deductions.
6. Maintain close communication with the instructor of this course, who will try to answer any e-mail as soon as possible. Please use this e-mail: jhustin1@memphis.edu.
7. For any technical problems, please contact the U of M Help Desk at 901-678-8888 or at www.helpdesk.memphis.edu.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. The University of Memphis regards plagiarism as academic dishonesty. Consequences of plagiarism include failing an assignment, receiving a lower course grade, and even failing a course. According to the University of Memphis Code of Student Conduct "[t]he term 'plagiarism' includes, but is not limited to, the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full or clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by

another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials." <http://exlibris.memphis.edu/help/plagiarism/index.html>

You might be plagiarizing if you:

- Submit someone else's work as your own.
- Buy a paper from a paper mill, website or other source.
- Copy sentences, phrases, paragraphs, or ideas from someone else's work, published or unpublished, without giving the original author credit.
- Replace select words from a passage without giving the original author credit.
- Copy any type of multimedia (graphics, audio, video, internet streams), computer programs, music compositions, graphs, or charts from someone else's work without giving the original author credit.
- Piece together phrases, ideas, and sentences from a variety of sources to write an essay.
- Build on someone else's idea or phrase to write your paper without giving the original author credit.
- Submit your own paper in more than one course without permission.

Students with Disabilities (SDS):

Qualified students with disabilities will be provided reasonable, necessary, and confidential academic accommodations if determined eligible by the university. It is your responsibility to contact the SDS office and to follow the procedures for having a written verification for specific accommodations from the university disability services staff sent to the instructor within the first two weeks of the semester. Student Disability Services office is at 110 Wilder Tower; 678-2880; www.memphis.edu/sds.

Dealing with Harassment:

The University of Memphis believes it is important to respond to insensitive and inappropriate behavior in a spirit of collegiality, mutual respect, and professionalism. If you believe that you have been the target of discrimination by another student, faculty member, or staff member, due to age, disability, ethnicity, gender, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, or cultural group membership, you can choose to pursue one or more of the following avenues:

1. The most direct approach, if you feel comfortable doing so, is to speak directly to the person whose behavior you consider to be inappropriate.
2. You may speak to the instructor, the Department Chair (678-2716), or the University's Affirmative Action Officer (678-2713).
3. You may contact the Assistant Dean of Students (678-2298), in the Office of Student Judicial Affairs.

It is important that you speak immediately to someone, with whom you feel comfortable, in order that your concerns can be handled promptly and fairly. In all complaints of discrimination, including sexual harassment, the Office of Affirmative Action will be notified.