English 224 Syllabus (sections 1-6), Fall Semester 2009

Lectures M-W 1-1:50, Bondurant 204C. Discussions on Wednesdays, time depending on section.

Lecture Calendar
To prepare for lectures we recommend you read not only the assigned texts listed below, but also the section and author introductions printed in your anthology, even when our syllabus selections by an author are not the ones contained in the anthology (as with Hemingway). However, for exams we only expect you to know the texts and contextual material discussed in the lectures and discussion sessions. (Unless a date is important enough to be mentioned in a lecture, you do not have to memorize it.)

Aug 24 M Introduction to the course and discussion of Whitman's "The Delliance of the Eagles" (Blackboard).
26 W Walt Whitman: "Song of Myself" (pp. 30-74)
31 M Whitman continued

Sept 2 W Emily Dickinson: Poems 207, 269, 340, 591, 598, 656, 1096, 1263, and additional poems posted on Blackboard
7 M Labor Day Holiday
9 W Dickinson continued

14 M Mark Twain: "The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County" (104-08) and "How to Tell a Story" (Blackboard)
16 W Sarah Orne Jewett: "The Foreigner" (Blackboard)

21 M EXAM
23 W Mary E. Wilkins Freeman: "The Revolt of 'Mother'" (635-45)

28 M Charles W. Chesnutt: "The Goophered Grapevine" (689-96). Also, Joel Chandler Harris, "The Wonderful Tar-Baby Story" (514-93) and "How Mr. Rabbit Was Too Sharp for Mr. Fox" (514-16).
30 W Chesnutt continued.

Oct 5 M Stephen Crane: "The Open Boat" (1000-16), poem XXI—"A man said to the universe" (1019), and poem—"Once I saw mountains angry" (Blackboard).
7 W Robert Frost: "Mending Wall" (1390), "The Death of the Hired Man" (1391), "Home Burial" (1395), "The Wood-Pile" (1399), "The Road Not Taken" (1399), "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" (1403), "Desert Places" (1405), "Design" (1405), and "The Draft Horse" (Blackboard).

12 M Frost continued
14 W Wallace Stevens: "The Snow Man" (1441), "Anecdote of the Jar" (1446), "Of Mere Being" (Blackboard), and "The Idea of Order at Key West" (1451-52).

20 M Stevens continued
22 W William Faulkner: "Barn Burning" (1955-1967)

26 M EXAM
28 W T.S. Eliot: "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" (1577-80)
Nov 2 M Eliot continued
4 W Tennessee Williams: A Streetcar Named Desire (2186-2248)
9 M Tennessee Williams: A Streetcar Named Desire continued
11 W Robert Lowell: "For the Union Dead" (2407-09)
16 M Ernest Hemingway: "A Clean Well-Lighted Place" (Blackboard)
18 W Flannery O'Connor: "Good Country People" (2529-2543), and Leslie Marmon Silko: "Lullaby" (3083-90)

November 23-27 Mon-Fri THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS


Dec 10 Thursday noon. FINAL EXAM

Course Learning Objectives/Outcomes
The purpose of this course is to acquaint you with some of the best American stories, poems, and plays since the Civil War, and to provide you an opportunity to think critically about them and express your thoughts in writing and orally. We will be paying close attention to the texts as literature, and we will be noting the biographical, literary, cultural and/or historical contexts that illuminate them. After completing this course, you should have: (1) a broader and deeper understanding of late-nineteenth and twentieth-century U.S. literature, including a fuller awareness of how the literature of this period is informed by, and in turn illuminates, its historical and cultural contexts; (2) a working knowledge of relevant critical vocabulary for the study of this literature (for example, vatic vs lyric poetry, humorous vs comic story, modernism, stream of consciousness); (3) an improved ability to think critically and to write analytically, persuasively, and comparatively about literary texts; and (4) greater ease and effectiveness in sharing ideas and communicating judgments persuasively.

Requirements
1. Have a professional attitude toward the course and your participation in it. Regular and punctual class attendance is crucial, and we expect basic courtesy toward the instructors and your classmates. (Courtesy to the teacher includes, among other things, no newspaper reading, web surfing, texting, or cell phone ringing during class.)
2. We will pass around sign-in sheets to record attendance at lecture sessions: if a sheet doesn’t come around to you, go to your TA at the end of the lecture and make sure you sign it. If you are not signed in you will be marked “absent.” Please make sure you sign the sheet appropriate for your section. Arriving late or leaving early will disrupt the whole class: please be considerate of others by arriving on time and staying for the duration.
3. Before lecture classes, you should have read the text(s) listed on the course calendar, and you should bring a copy with you to class. Before your discussion sessions you should have posted a journal entry to your Blackboard section’s discussion board, and you should take a print-out of your journal entry, as well as the text(s), to class.
4. Participate in your discussion sessions.
5. Do not plagiarize or cheat on exams or other writing you submit for this or any university course. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another as your own: see the M Book. Academic integrity is essential to all the values upon which the university is founded.
Course Materials
Our text is *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*, Seventh Edition, which comes as a boxed set of Volumes C, D, and E. Supplemental texts are posted on Blackboard.

The Final Grade
- We will base 65% of your grade on three exams (including the Final): the first exam is worth 15%, and the second exam and final exam are worth 25% each. The exam questions will be mainly of the short-answer type but will also require an essay answer, and we will base the questions on the assigned texts and their contexts, and the understanding of them developed in the lectures and discussions. In order to review course material intelligently before exams, you should take good notes and should make sure to get good notes from others for classes you miss. It is important to read assigned material before class in order to understand the lectures and discussions and, therefore, to take good notes.
- We will base another 10% of your grade on short (two paragraphs of about five sentences each) journal entries you will write before each of your weekly discussion meetings. Journal assignments will be posted on Blackboard after Wednesday’s lecture (usually by Friday). Post your journal entries to the Blackboard discussion group for your course section before midnight on Monday, so that everyone in your discussion group will have a chance to read everyone else’s entries before your Wednesday discussion session. Your discussion leader will base your journal grade on the quality and number of your entries, and late postings will not be accepted.
- We will base 10% of your course grade on class participation. This includes your attendance at lectures and your in-class contributions to discussions. By definition you will not have participated in lectures or discussion sessions you do not attend. We will take attendance at every class meeting (lecture and discussion), and your discussion leader will lower your class-participation grade 3 points (on a 100 point scale) for every class you miss. Late arrivals and early departures from class will also affect your class-participation grade.
- We will base the last 15% of your grade on a term paper. The topics and the deadline will be posted on Blackboard later in the semester. If you are not a strong writer, we suggest you make an appointment at The Writing Center (on the third floor of the Library) to have them look over your first draft.

Contact Information
Jack Barbera’s office is Bondurant W 209A, and his regular office hours are on Mondays from 2:00 until 3:00 and Thursdays from 1:00 until 2:00. He is often there at other times, and if his regular office time is not convenient, do not hesitate to make an appointment, either before or after class, or by phone (202-7732 home) or e-mail at jvbarber@olemiss.edu. You may leave phone messages for him or place written messages in the plastic holder on the wall to the right of his office door.

Robert Hodges’s office is 211 Somerville Hall, and his office phone is 915-7679. His e-mail address is rhodges@olemiss.edu. Bob leads discussion sections 4, 5, and 6. He will inform you of his office hours.

Joshua Lundy’s office is 211 Somerville Hall, and his office phone is 915-7679. His e-mail address is jslundy@olemiss.edu. Josh leads discussion sections 1, 2, and 3. He will inform you of his office hours.

Disability
If you have a disability, please see the Office of Disability Service for appropriate accommodations.