

English 3863/5723/6723: The Multicultural South

Fall 2011

T/Th 2:00—3:20PM

Walton College of Business 339

Professor Lisa Hinrichsen

English Department

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Office Hours: Wednesday 2-4 or by appointment

Course Overview

This course will examine multicultural contemporary literature that situates southern identity within a postmodern, diverse, and international context. In foregrounding cultural similarities between the U.S. South and the Global South, these texts process complicated questions of historical trauma, diasporic identity, and cultural assimilation, and reconceptualize exclusionary and exceptionalist notions of nation and region by placing the U.S. South in a transnational perspective. How does multicultural literature challenge the long-standing assumption that one must be born in the South to understand it? What does it mean when we understand the U.S. South in solidarity with other “Global Souths,” or developing countries with similar economic histories of belated capitalist modernization, slavery, and exploitation of labor and raw materials? How do texts by Asian, Latino, and Native American writers in the U.S. South realign racial histories previously thought of in terms of black-white binaries? This course will examine these and other questions as we explore how recent multicultural southern literature plays a key role in a field of study increasingly challenging its own dominant fictions. Note that this course will situate primary texts in relation to recent critical and theoretical work in southern studies and related fields; we will examine how (and if) southern studies has been enriched rather than threatened by the influx of global identities and capital to the South, and we will examine new methodologies for understanding and reconceptualizing memory, history, place, and community.

Required Textbooks (Please buy these particular editions)

Monique Truong, *Bitter in the Mouth* (Random House)

V.S. Naipaul, *A Turn in the South* (Vintage)

Dave Eggers, *Zeitoun* (Vintage)

Linda Hogan, *Power* (Norton)

LeAnne Howe, *Shell Shaker* (Aunt Lute)

Roberto Fernandez, *Holy Radishes* (Arte Publico Press)

Erna Brodber, *Louisiana* (University Press of Mississippi)

Cynthia Shearer, *The Celestial Jukebox* (University of Georgia Press)

Not Required

Mississippi Masala (video); Displaced in the New South (video)

Short stories and critical readings will be distributed on the course's Blackboard site. Additional theoretical and critical readings may be introduced in class.

Class Participation and Attendance

You are expected to have completed all assigned readings and to come to class with questions and insights to share. Active participation in the course is essential and expected. **Please prepare responses to the readings: expect to be called on in class.** More than **three** unexcused absences will lower your course grade. Absences over this limit will only be excused with a doctor's note. Please notify me before class begins if you will be unable to attend a course meeting due to illness or emergency. **Being late twice will be considered equivalent to one absence.** In case of inclement weather, classes will be held as long as the University is open; please notify me if you commute from out of the area and have trouble coming to campus.

Written Assignments

Think carefully about the distinction between observation and analysis before writing. All papers should be word-processed, double-spaced, and in Times New Roman 12-point type. Proofread and spell-check your assignments thoroughly. Keep a file with all your notes, drafts, and outlines throughout the semester. **All assignments are due at the beginning of class and should be submitted in a hard-copy format.** If you miss class on the day of a deadline, please contact me as soon as possible. Late papers will lose one-third of a letter grade a day (e.g., A to A-). Assignments not turned in during class (i.e., put in my department mailbox) will also lose one-third of a letter grade.

Grading

Class Participation (attendance, discussion, in-class writing, short quizzes) 15%
Class Presentation 10% (undergraduates: 10 minutes; graduate students: 15 minutes)

Short Response Paper 10%

Analytical Paper (5-8 pages) 20%

Midterm 20%

Final 25%

It is required that you meet with me at least once over the course of the semester. If you fail to do so, your participation grade will be lowered.

Graduate students will complete the short response paper plus a 15–25 page final research paper, which will be preceded by a annotated bibliography and prospectus due November 10.

On Plagiarism

Although you may spend time reading and commenting upon each other's work in class, your written words should be your own—they should not be taken from online or other sources. If you are uncertain about how to avoid plagiarism, make an appointment to discuss it with me.

Disability

University of Arkansas Academic Policy Series 1520.10 requires that students with disabilities are provided reasonable accommodations to ensure their equal access to course content. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please contact me privately at the beginning of the semester to make arrangements for necessary classroom adjustments. Please note, you must first verify your eligibility for these accommodations through the Center for Educational Access (contact 479–575–3104 or visit <http://cea.uark.edu> for more information on registration procedures.

SCHEDULE

August 23 What is “the South”? What is southern literature?

August 25 Wallerstein, Immanuel. “What Can One Mean by Southern Culture?” *The Evolution of Southern Culture*. Ed. Numan V. Bartley. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1988. 1–13. [Blackboard]

Ayers, Edward. “What We Talk About When We Talk About the South.” In *All Over the Map: Rethinking American Regions*. Eds. Edward Ayers, Patricia Nelson Limerick, Stephen Nissenbaum, Peter S. Onuf. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1996. [Blackboard]

Watch: McPherson, Tara. “Reimagining the Red States: New Directions for Southern Studies.” *Southern Spaces*, Emory University, 14 Dec 2004.

<http://www.southernspaces.org/2004/re-imagining-red-states-new-directions-southern-studies>

August 26 Last day to register, add a course, or change from credit to audit

August 30 V.S. Naipaul, *A Turn in the South*

September 1 V.S. Naipaul, *A Turn in the South*

September 2 Last day to drop without a mark of “W” or change from credit to audit

September 5 Labor Day Holiday

September 6 V.S. Naipaul, *A Turn in the South*

September 8 Erna Brodber, *Louisiana* (1–54)

Aboul-Ela, Hosam. “Global South, Local South: The New Post-Nationalism in U.S. Southern Studies.” *American Literature* (December 2006) 78: 847–858. [Blackboard]

September 13 Erna Brodber, *Louisiana* (55–94)

September 15 Erna Brodber, *Louisiana* (94–end)

Required: Smith, Jon and Deborah Cohn. “Introduction: Uncanny Hybridities.” *Look Away! The U.S. South in New World Studies*. Ed. Jon Smith and Deborah Cohn. Durham: Duke UP, 2004. 1–24. [Blackboard]

Suggested: Kutzinski, Vera M. “Borders and Bodies: The United States, America, and the Caribbean.” *New Centennial Review*. 1.2 (2001): 55–88.

Edouard Glissant, *Faulkner, Mississippi*. University of Chicago Press, 2000.

Zora Neale Hurston, *Mules and Men* (1935) and *Tell My Horse* (1938)

Joseph Roach, *Cities of the Dead: Circum-Atlantic Performance*. New York: Columbia UP, 1996.

J. Michael Dash, *The Other America: Caribbean Literature in a New World Context*. University Press of Virginia, 1998.

September 20 Roberto Fernandez, *Holy Radishes*

September 22 No Class: At Conference

September 27 Roberto Fernandez, *Holy Radishes*

Peacock, James. *Grounded Globalism: How the U.S. South Embraces the World*. [Excerpts on Blackboard]

Read online: “The Nativist Lobby.” Southern Poverty Law Center. <http://www.splcenter.org/get-informed/publications/the-nativist-lobby-three-faces-of-intolerance> (Also explore website; see “Hate Map” and “Close to Slavery: Guestworker Programs in the United States” at <http://www.splcenter.org/get-informed/publications/close-to-slavery-guestworker-programs-in-the-united-states>)

September 29 Roberto Fernandez, *Holy Radishes* **FIRST PAPER DUE**

October 4 Linda Hogan, Power (1–82)

October 6 Linda Hogan, Power (83–176)

October 11 Linda Hogan, Power (177–end)

Dubey, Madhu. “Postmodern Geographies of the U.S. South.” *Nepantla: Views from the South*. 3.2 (2002) 351–371. [Blackboard]

October 13 LeAnne Howe, Shell Shaker (1–79)

October 18 Fall Break: No Class

October 20 LeAnne Howe, Shell Shaker (80–143)

October 25 LeAnne Howe, Shell Shaker (144–end) **TAKE HOME MIDTERM (Open Book)**

October 27 Video: Mississippi Masala **TAKE HOME MIDTERM DUE IN CLASS**

November 1 Video: Mississippi Masala

November 3 Cynthia Shearer, The Celestial Jukebox (1–107)

Appadurai, Arjun. *Modernity at Large: Cultural Dimensions of Globalization*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1996. [Excerpts on Blackboard]

November 8 Cynthia Shearer, The Celestial Jukebox (108–199)

Bone, Martyn. *Postsouthern Sense of Place in Contemporary Fiction*. Baton Rouge: LSU Press, 2005. [Excerpts on Blackboard]

November 10 Cynthia Shearer, The Celestial Jukebox (200–300)

Annotated Bibliography and Prospectus Due (Graduate Students)

November 15 Cynthia Shearer, The Celestial Jukebox (300–end)

Romine, Scott. *The Real South: Southern Narrative in the Age of Cultural Reproduction*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State UP, 2009. [Excerpts on Blackboard]

November 17 Video: Displaced in the New South **FINAL PAPERS DUE**

Lowe, Lisa. *Immigrant Acts: On Asian American Cultural Politics*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1996. [Excerpts on Blackboard]

For further reading: *Improbable Southerners: Asian Americans in the South*, edited by Jigna Desai.; *Coolies and Cane*, by Moon-ho Jung.

November 18 Last day to drop a full semester class

November 22 Monique Truong, *Bitter in the Mouth*

November 24 Thanksgiving: No Class

November 29 Monique Truong, *Bitter in the Mouth*

December 1 Monique Truong, *Bitter in the Mouth*

December 6 Dave Eggers, *Zeitoun*

Read Online: "Broken Levees, Broken Promises." Southern Poverty Law Center. <http://www.splcenter.org/get-informed/publications/broken-levees-broken-promises>

December 8 Dave Eggers, *Zeitoun*

Dimock, Wai Chee. "World History According to Katrina." *Differences* 12:2 (2008): 35–53. [Blackboard]

December 9 Dead Day

December 12–16 Final Examination Period

Recommended Resources For Further Reading in Southern Literature

Adams, Jessica. *Wounds of Returning: Race, Memory, and Property on the Postslavery Plantation*. Chapel Hill:

University of North Carolina Press, 2007.

Adams, Jessica and Michael Bibler, eds. *Just Below South: Intercultural Performance in the Caribbean and the*

U.S. South. Charlottesville, University of Virginia Press, 2007.

Andrews, William L. *To Tell a Free Story: The First Century of Afro-American Autobiography, 1760–1865*.

Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1986.

Ansley, Fran and Jon Shefner, eds. *Global Connections and Local Receptions: New Latino Immigration to the*

Southeastern US. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2009.

Ayers, Edward L. *The Promise of the New South: Life after Reconstruction*. New

York: Oxford UP, 1992.

Baker, Houston A., Jr. and Dana D. Nelson. "Preface: Violence, the Body, and 'The South.'" *American Literature* 73.2 (June 2001): 231-44.

Benson, Melanie R. *Disturbing Calculations: The Economics of Identity in Postcolonial Southern Identity, 1912-2002*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2008.

Bone, Martyn. *Postsouthern Sense of Place in Contemporary Fiction*. Baton Rouge: LSU Press, 2005.

Brinkmeyer, Robert H. *Remapping Southern Literature: Contemporary Southern Writers and the West*. Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 2000.

Brundage, W. Fitzhugh, ed. *Where These Memories Grow: History, Memory, and Southern Identity*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2000.

Cash, W.J. *The Mind of the South*. New York: Vintage, 1941.

Cobb, James C. *Industrialization and Southern Society, 1877-1984*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1984.

—-. *Redefining Southern Culture: Mind and Identity in the Modern South*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1999.

Cobb, James and William Stueck, eds. *Globalization and the American South*. Athens and London: University of Georgia Press, 2005

Duck, Leigh Anne. *The Nation's Region: Southern Modernism, Segregation, and U.S. Nationalism*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2006.

Fetterley, Judith, and Marjorie Pryse. *Writing Out of Place: Regionalism, Women, and American Literary Culture*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2003.

Flora, Joseph P., and Lucinda H. MacKethan, eds. *The Companion to Southern Literature*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2002.

Giles, Paul. *The Global Remapping of American Literature*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton UP, 2011.

Gray, Richard. *The Literature of Memory: Modern Writers of the American South*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1977.

—-. *Southern Aberrations: Writers of the American South and the Problems of Regionalism*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State UP, 2000.

- . *Writing the South: Ideas of an American Region*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1986.
- Greeson, Jennifer Rae. *Our South: Geographic Fantasy and the Rise of National Literature*. Cambridge: Harvard UP, 2010.
- Guinn, Matthew. *After Southern Modernism: Fiction of the Contemporary South*. Jackson: University of Mississippi Press, 2000.
- Handley, George B. *Postslavery Literatures in the Americas: Family Portraits in Black and White*. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 2000.
- Heilman, Robert. "The Southern Temper." In Rubin and Jacobs, *Southern Renaissance*.
- Henninger, Katherine Renee. "How New? What Place?: Southern Studies and the Rest of the World." *Contemporary Literature* 45.1 (2004) 177–185.
- Hobson, Fred. *But Now I See: The White Southern Racial Conversion Narrative*. Baton Rouge: LSU Press, 1999.
- . *The Southern Writer in the Postmodern World*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1991.
- Hobson, Fred, ed. *South to the Future: An American Region in the Twenty-First Century*. Athens: U of Georgia P, 2002.
- Holman, C. Hugh. "No More Monoliths, Please: Continuities in the Multi-Souths." *Southern Literature in Transition: Heritage and Promise*, ed. Philip Castille and William Osborne. Memphis: Memphis State University Press, 1983.
- Holloway, Pippa, ed. *Other Souths: Diversity and Difference in the U.S. South, Reconstruction to the Present*. Athens, University of Georgia Press, 2008.
- Howard John. *Concentration Camps on the Home Front: Japanese Americans in the House of Jim Crow*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008.
- Inness, Sherrie A., and Diana Royer. *Breaking Boundaries: New Perspectives on Women's Regional Writing*. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1997.
- Jones, Anne Goodwyn, and Susan V. Donaldson. *Haunted Bodies: Gender and Southern Texts*. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1997.
- Jones, Suzanne W., and Sharon Monteith. *South to a New Place: Region, Literature, Culture*.

- Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2002.
- Kreyling, Michael. *Inventing Southern Literature*. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1998.
- . *The South That Wasn't There: Postsouthern Memory and History*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State UP, 2010.
- . "Toward 'A New Southern Studies.'" *South Central Review* 22.1 (2005) 4–18.
- Ladd, Barbara. "Literary Studies: The southern United States, 2005." *PMLA*. October 2005. No. 5. Volume 120. pg. 1628–1639.
- . *Nationalism and the Color Line in George W. Cable, Mark Twain, and William Faulkner*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State UP, 1996.
- . *Resisting History: Gender, Modernity, and Authorship in William Faulkner, Zora Neale Hurston, and Eudora Welty*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2007.
- Levander, Caroline Field and Robert S. Levine, eds. *Hemispheric American Studies*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2008.
- Lowe, John. *Bridging Southern Cultures: An Interdisciplinary Approach*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2011.
- MacKethan, Lucinda H. *The Dream of Arcady: Place and Time in Southern Literature*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1980.
- Mantero, Jose Maria. *Latinos and the U.S. South*. Praeger, 2008.
- McPherson, Tara. *Reconstructing Dixie: Race, Gender, and Nostalgia in the Imagined South*. Durham, N.C.: Duke UP, 2003.
- Morrison, Toni. *Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and the Literary Imagination*. New York: Vintage, 1993.
- Odem, Mary, Ed. *Latino Immigrants and the Transformation of the U.S. South*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2009.
- Painter, Nell Irvin. *Southern History Across the Color Line*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 2002.
- Peacock, James L. *Grounded Globalism: How the U.S. South Embraces the World*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2007.
- Peacock, James L., Harry L. Watson, Carrie R. Matthews, eds. *The American South in a Global World*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2005.

Perry, Carolyn, and Mary Louise Weaks, eds. *The History of Southern Women's Literature*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2002.

Renan, Ernest. "What is a Nation?" *Nation and Narration*. Ed. Homi K. Bhabha. New York: Routledge, 1990. 8–22.

Richardson, Riché. *Black Masculinity and the U.S. South: From Uncle Tom to Gangsta*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2007.

Romine, Scott. *The Narrative Forms of Southern Community*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State UP, 1999.

---. *The Real South: Southern Narrative in the Age of Cultural Reproduction*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State UP, 2009.

--. "Where is Southern Literature?: The Practice of Place in a Postsouthern Age." *Critical Survey* 12. No 1 (Spring 2000): 12–13.

Rowe, John Carlos. *Post-Nationalist American Studies*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2000.

Rubin, Jr., Louis D. et al. *The History of Southern Literature*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State UP, 1985.

Rubin, Louis D. Jr., *A Gallery of Southerners*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1982. 206, 222.

Rubin, Louis D., Jr., and Robert D. Jacobs, Jr. *Southern Renaissance: The Literature of the Modern South*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1953.

Rubin, Louis D., Jr., et al., eds. *The History of Southern Literature*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1985.

Said, Edward. *Culture and Imperialism*. New York: Vintage, 1993.

---. *Orientalism*. New York: Pantheon, 1978.

Smith, Jon. "The U.S. South and the Future of the Postcolonial." *The Global South* Vol. 1, No. 1 (Winter, 2007), 153–158.

Smith, Jon and Deborah Cohn, eds. *Look Away! The U.S. South in New World Studies*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2004.

Tindall, George Brown. *Natives and Newcomers: Ethnic Southerners and Southern Ethnics*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1995.

Twelve Southerners, I'll Take My Stand: The South and Agrarian Tradition. Baton Rouge: Louisiana

- State Press, 1977.
- Woodward, C. Vann. *The Burden of Southern History*. 3d ed. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State UP, 1993.
- . *Origins of the New South, 1877–1913*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State UP, 1951.
- . *The Strange Career of Jim Crow*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1966.
- Yaeger, Patricia. "Consuming Trauma; or, The Pleasures of Merely Circulating." In *Extremities: Trauma, Testimony, and Community*. Ed. Nancy K. Miller and Jason Tougaw. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2002.
- . *Dirt and Desire: Reconstructing Southern Women's Writing, 1930–1990*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000.