

Instructor:	Dr. Erich Nunn
Class meeting times:	T*Th 9:30-10:45, Haley 2326
Office hours:	T*Th 11:00-12, 1:00-2:00, Haley Center 9076, or by appointment
Email:	erich.nunn@auburn.edu
Phone:	334.246.1409 (emergencies only, please)

Overview

Representations (including self-representations) of the South in the nineteenth century revolved around plantation slavery, the Civil War, and Reconstruction. Similarly, we might think about the twentieth century as being defined by Jim Crow segregation, the out-migration of both blacks and working-class whites, and the civil rights movement and its aftermath. What are the issues, then, that structure the twenty-first-century southern imaginary? To what extent does it make sense to talk about “the South” as a unified conceptual, ideological, or geographical place? Through what cultural forms is the South represented? The course will take a cultural studies approach to these questions, examining recent literary texts by southern writers alongside a range of other media, including television shows, films, magazine, music, etc. Our investigations of these texts and media will draw on recent interdisciplinary work in southern studies.

Materials

The printed texts we will use in this class are available from the Auburn University bookstore. Out of concern for the substantial financial burdens many students face, I have endeavored to assign inexpensive editions of these works. You may opt to acquire eBooks for some or all of these, but if you do so, please be aware 1) that various editions may not have the same contents and 2) that course discussions and lectures will be keyed to the page numbers in the assigned print editions. Additional materials will be available online via Canvas. Items on Canvas items are marked with an asterisk (*) below.

Novels and short stories

- Kiese Laymon, *Long Division* (2013)
- Karen Russell, *St. Lucy's Home for Girls Raised by Wolves* (2011)
- Monique Truong, *Bitter in the Mouth* (2011)
- Jeff Vandermeer, *Annihilation* (2014)
- Jesmyn Ward, *Salvage the Bones* (2012)
- Colson Whitehead, *The Underground Railroad* (2016)

Film and television

The following films and TV shows are available via online streaming services (Netflix, Youtube, Amazon, etc.). You are responsible for watching them before our class meetings.

- *Atlanta* (2016)
- *Beasts of the Southern Wild* (2012)
- *Moonlight* (2016)
- *Spring Breakers* (2012)

Essays

- Michael Bibler et al. “Adjust Your Maps: Manifestos from, for, and about United States Southern Studies.” *PMLA*. 131.1 (January 2016): 153-196.*
- Sarah Nicole Prickett et al. “Spring Break Forever.” *The New Inquiry* (April 17, 2013).*

Attendance

I expect you to attend every class meeting, with reasonable allowances for illness, extracurricular activities, accidents, injuries, family emergencies, apocalypses, etc. As a general rule, missing more than a week of class (two class meetings) will adversely affect your participation grade.

Please be on time for class. Students arriving more than ten minutes after the start of class will be considered absent.

Students who miss a class, for whatever reason, are responsible for any material covered and assignments made. This means that you will need to get notes from a classmate. Do not email me asking me to recap a class for you. I will not respond, other than to send you a link to this poem: <http://bit.ly/jgK4N>.

Participation

Participation is not the same thing as attendance. This means that showing up to class every day and keeping generally mum will earn you an F in participation. It's a small class, all running by discussion, so you'll have no choice but to get involved. Hence it is imperative for you to be ready for class—you will need to do the reading in advance, carefully and invariably. Most students earn a B- in participation, making insightful comments in many discussions but staying uninvolved in others. Earning a B in participation means that you have come to class prepared every day, making meaningful contributions and responding to your classmates; the B involves participating heartily almost every day. A-range grades in participation are reserved for those who consistently offer true insight, read and argue rigorously, draw their classmates into thoughtful discussion in an inviting and considerate way, and situate their comments within the larger conversation the class is having. The A-range participator does this in nearly every class. Class participation counts for 10% of your grade in the course.

Assignments

All assignments should be completed by the relevant due date. Grades on late assignments will be reduced by one letter grade for each day they are late (including Saturdays and Sundays). All assignments must be completed in order for you to pass the course.

Response papers

You will be expected to produce a total of four one- to two-page (250- to 500-word) response papers during the course of the semester. You may submit no more than one response paper on any given day, and each response must address readings from the current week. Together, the response papers comprise 20% of your final grade.

Research papers

You will write two longer papers of six to eight pages. These essays will follow MLA formatting guidelines, and be submitted electronically via Canvas. Late papers are marked down one letter grade for every day late. Together, these papers accounts for 35% of your final grade.

Quizzes

Quizzes will be given periodically (as often as every day) to check your close reading skills. These quizzes will involve short answer questions on the texts being read at that time. Quizzes comprise 10% of your final grade.

Presentation/Class discussion

You will be expected to help lead one hour-long class discussion (each student should take responsibility for about twenty minutes). This presentation/discussion will comprise 15% of your final grade.

Final exam

The final exam will be cumulative—that is, it will reflect all the material covered in the course. The final exam constitutes 20% of your final grade.

Students with Disabilities

Students who need accommodations are asked to arrange a meeting during office hours the first week of classes or as soon as possible if accommodations are needed immediately. If you have a conflict with my office hours, an alternate time can be arranged. To set up this meeting, please contact me by e-mail. Bring a copy of your Accommodation Memo and an Instructor Verification Form to the meeting. If you do not have an Accommodation Memo but need accommodations, make an appointment with The Office of Accessibility, 1228 Haley Center, 844-2096 (V/TT).

Plagiarism

Cheating and plagiarism are serious violations of the Student Academic Honesty Code (Title XII) and will be treated according to the procedures outlined in the Student Policy e- Handbook (www.auburn.edu/student_info/student_policies) or on the University Policies website (<https://sites.auburn.edu/admin/universypolicies/default.aspx>). You are responsible for asking me any questions you may have about honest use of sources or proper documentation.

Schedule*

* N.b., the schedule is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class and/or via email.

Week	Dates	Readings and Activities
1	Tue, Aug 22 Thu, Aug 24	Introduction to the course Bibler et al.
2	Tue, Aug 29 Thu, Aug 31	Whitehead, <i>The Underground Railroad</i>
3	Tue, Sep 5 Thu, Sep 7	Whitehead (cont.) <i>Atlanta</i>
4	Mon, Sep 11 Tue, Sep 12 Thu, Sep 14	“Confederate Monuments: History and Myth,” Margaret Mitchell House, Atlanta, 6 pm (optional off-campus event) No class meeting (I have jury duty) <i>Atlanta</i>
5	Tue, Sep 19 Thu, Sep 21	Ward, <i>Salvage the Bones</i> <i>Beasts of the Southern Wild</i>
6	Tue, Sep 26 Thu, Sep 28	Vandermeer, <i>Annihilation</i>
7	Tue, Oct 3 Thu, Oct 5	Laymon, <i>Long Division</i>
8	Tue, Oct 10 Wed, Oct 11 Thu, Oct 12	Laymon (cont.) Paper 1 due FALL BREAK
9	Tue, Oct 17 Thu, Oct 19	<i>Spring Breakers</i> Prickett et al., <i>Spring Break Forever</i>
10	Tue, Oct 24 Thu, Oct 26	Truong, <i>Bitter in the Mouth</i>
11	Tue, Oct 31 Thu, Nov 2	Truong (cont.) No class meeting (at South Atlantic Modern Language Association Conference)
12	Tue, Nov 7 Thu, Nov 9	<i>Moonlight</i> No class meeting

13	Tue, Nov 14 Thu, Nov 16	Russell, <i>St. Lucy's Home</i>
14	Tue, Nov 21 Thu, Nov 23	THANKSGIVING BREAK
	Tue, Nov 28 Thu, Nov 30	Research and paper workshops
15	Tue, Dec 5 Thu, Dec 7	Paper 2 due
		Final Exam Monday, Dec 11, 8:00 am – 10:30 am
