

English 4740
Autumn, 2017
Department of English
University of Georgia

Professor John Lowe
263 Park Hall
706-542-8952
jwlowe@uga.edu
Office Hours: 1-3MW

Georgia Literature: An Archival Approach
Schedule of Assignments
(Selections included in the course booklet are marked CB)

This course will explore the dazzling literary output of our state, from Native American creation stories to the current day. Our survey will consider comic tales of the old Southwest, narratives of slavery, black folklore, and Confederate poetry. While we will read other poems and portions of memoirs, our major focus will be on the twentieth century short story and novel. Several of our classes will be held in the Russell Rare Book Library, where students will have the opportunity to engage directly with archival materials relevant to our writers. Authors will include William Craft, Joel Chandler Harris, Sidney Lanier, August Baldwin Longstreet, Erskine Caldwell, Lillian Smith, Flannery O'Connor, Martin Luther King, Carson McCullers, John O. Killens, James Dickey, and Judith Ortiz Cofer. Course requirements: midterm, final exam, two short papers, and one longer one, all involving archival research.

August

- 15 Tu Augustus Baldwin Longstreet, selections from Georgia Scenes (on handout)
17 Orientation session, Russell Library; discussion of primary documents, Howell Cobb Collection
22 Tu William Craft, Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom (online, at docsouth.unc.edu/neh/craft/craft.html)
24 Th Native American folklore (on handout); Sidney Lanier, selected poems (CB)
Paper One is due at the start of class today
29 Tu Library Session, Joel Chandler Harris documents
31 Th Joel Chandler Harris, selections from Nights with Uncle Remus (CB); Bill Arp, selections (CB)

September

- 5 Henry Woodfin Grady, "The New South" (CB); Tu Poetry of Conrad Aiken and Georgia Douglas Johnson (CB)
7 Th Erskine Caldwell, God's Little Acre*
12 Tu God's Little Acre
14 Th Vereen Bell, Swamp Water*
19 Tu Swamp Water
21 Th Carson McCullers, The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*
26 Tu The Heart is a Lonely Hunter
28 Th Short Stories by Flannery O'Connor (online at elc): "A Good Man is Hard to Find" and "Good Country People"

Paper Two is due at the start of class today

October

- 3 Tu O'Connor stories (online at elc): "Revelation" and "The Displaced Person"

5 Th *Midterm Examination*

10 Tu John O. Killens, Youngblood*

12 Th Youngblood

17 Tu Poetry of James Dickey and speeches by Martin Luther King, Jr. (CB)

19 Th Russell Library presentation on the papers of Lillian Smith

24 Tu Lillian Smith, Strange Fruit*

26 Th Strange Fruit

31 Tu Short stories by James Alan McPherson (CB)

November

2 Th Alice Walker, Meridian*

7 Tu Meridian

9 Th Alfred Uhry, The Last Night of Ballyhoo*

14 Tu The Last Night of Ballyhoo

Paper Three is due at the start of class today

16 Th Poetry of David Bottoms and Natasha Tretheway (CB)

Thanksgiving Holiday

28 Tu Panel discussions of Lillian Smith papers, Russell Library

30 Th Short Stories by Judith Ortiz Cofer (online at elc)

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADE DISTRIBUTION

Midterm Exam: 20%

Final Exam: 20%

First Essay on the story of the Crafts: 10%

Second Essay on Joel Chandler Harris: 10%

Third Essay on Lillian Smith: 20%

Quizzes: 10%

Class Participation: 10%

Exams: The midterm and final exams will consist of a series of short answer and essay questions asking you to demonstrate your knowledge of the texts, your analytical capacity, and your ability to make connections from one author to another (all essay questions will involve comparison and contrast of texts).

Essays: Each student will write three essays that demonstrate an ability to analyze texts and to make connections between texts, employing archival materials we will examine in the Russell Library. The first of these papers will consist of your reaction of the archival materials to the Crafts's narrative. The second will relate illustrations in Harris's first two collections (employing first editions at the Russell Library). The third paper will use archival materials in the Lillian Smith archive to construct a reading of her novel, Strange Fruit. Full details about these exercises will be provided in the "Course Information" document.

You should at all costs avoid simply summarizing the plots of the works under discussion. Rather, a successful essay will be organized around a strong *thesis*—a central argument about theme, character, ideology, and so on - that you support through close analysis of your primary text(s).