

**Southern Studies 101 -
Introduction to Southern Studies
SAMPLE SYLLABUS
Tupelo Room, 105 Barnard Observatory**

Please do not bring food or drink into the Tupelo Room.

Instructors:

Adam Gussow, C-213 Bondurant, 915-7333, agussow@olemiss.edu, Wed 10-12
David Wharton, 217 Barnard Observatory, 915-5993, dwharton@olemiss.edu, TTh11-12

Instructors are also happy to arrange appointments with students outside of office hours.

Teaching Assistant:

Required Texts:

Bill Malone & David Stricklin: Southern Music, American Music

Tim Gautreaux: The Clearing

Melba Beals: Warriors Don't Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock's Central High

Tony Horwitz: Confederates in the Attic: Dispatches from the Unfinished Civil War

David "Honeyboy" Edwards: The World Don't Owe Me Nothing: The Life and Times of Delta Bluesman Honeyboy Edwards

Course Description:

Southern Studies 101 is a team-taught, interdisciplinary course that studies the South from multiple perspectives, including those of history, literature, music, and photography. Students will read five core texts and hear lectures about those works and related issues from professors in various fields. Students will complete three in-class essay/quizzes, a project, and two examinations.

Course Objectives:

Southern Studies 101 will attempt to accomplish the following goals:

- 1) to introduce students to interdisciplinary study by demonstrating varying approaches discussing an issue or text;
- 2) to introduce students to the South's history, literature, and cultural expression; and
- 3) to provide students with opportunities to discuss, both orally and in writing, their observations about the South that surrounds them.

Graded Work:

In-Class Essay/Quizzes: Students will complete three in-class essay/quizzes (dates appear on course calendar). On each occasion, we will devote the first 45 minutes of

class to the quiz and composing a written response to an essay question. During the remainder of the class period, we will use these replies to initiate group discussion. Quizzes will be graded on a ten-point scale – 1 point each for 5 short-answer questions and 5 points for the essay. No make-up quizzes will be given.

Project: Students will complete a short (3-5 pages) project that analyzes either a piece of southern music or a photograph of a southern scene, event, or person. (Details to follow.) The project will be due in class on November 10. No late work accepted.

Examinations: Students will take two exams – a mid-term and a final exam. The mid-term is on October 11. The final will be during our scheduled final exam slot (no exceptions). The exams will consist of short-answer responses and extended essay questions and will draw heavily on material presented in class and covered in the texts. No make-up exams will be given. Students will need to provide blue books for both exams.

We will evaluate your responses to in-class essays and exam questions for evidence of...

- clear understanding and logical application of ideas as they are presented in reading material and in related classroom activities;
- thoughtful engagement with the subject matter and awareness of the complexity of various issues facing Southerners;
- ability to express ideas clearly and according to acceptable standards of written English.

Course Policies:

Attendance: Students who miss more than four classes jeopardize their chances of passing the course. Those who find it necessary to miss class should notify one of us in advance that they will be absent. Students wishing an excused absence due to medical reasons should bring a note from the health service with them upon their return to class. Attendance will be taken daily by means of a sign-up sheet, and there will be spot-checks to determine its accuracy. Falsification of the attendance sheet will be considered a form of academic dishonesty and will be dealt with accordingly.

Evaluation: Final grades will be determined as follows:

3 in-class essays = 10% each, for a total of 30%

project = 10%

mid-term exam = 25%

final exam = 35%

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty, and ignorance of what plagiarism entails will not be accepted as an excuse. Each student should complete all academic work with the standard of personal integrity that the University of Mississippi demands. Please consult the M Book for detailed information on the University's view

of plagiarism. According to *A Writer's Reference* (Diana Hacker, 2nd edition, 1992), "To borrow another writer's words and ideas without proper acknowledgement is a form of dishonesty known as plagiarism. To avoid plagiarism, you must cite all quotations, summaries, and paraphrases as well as any facts or ideas that are not common knowledge. In addition, you must be careful to put paraphrases and summaries in your own words" (pp.214-5). Acceptable channels of assistance with written work completed for this class include the Writing Center and conferences with the instructors. Students unclear about the precise definition of plagiarism should see us early in the semester to clarify their understanding of the term. **Students practicing academic dishonesty will fail this course.**

Disabilities: If you have a disability, see the Office of Student Disability Services for appropriate accommodation.

Tentative Calendar:

Tu, 8/23	introduction to course
Th, 8/25	lectures: the interdisciplinary method – Gussow, Wharton
Tu, 8/30	no class
Th, 9/1	lecture/discussion: the mythic South – Gussow
Tu, 9/6	lecture/discussion: slavery, the "folk," and early music from the South - Wharton Students read Chapters 1 & 2 in <u>Southern Music, American Music</u>
Th, 9/8	UNIT 1: AN EMERGING SOUTH: VIOLENCE, EXPLOITATION, AND ETHNICITY lecture: "Trees, Hard Work, and Outsiders" – Wharton Students read <u>The Clearing</u>
Tu, 9/13	response lecture: Gussow
Th, 9/15	in-class essay/quiz & discussion
Tu, 9/20	lecture/discussion: "Zippity Doo-Dah: Blackface Minstrelsy and the American Imagination of the South"- Gussow

Th, 9/22	<p>UNIT 2: RACE AND CIVIL RIGHTS</p> <p>lecture: the divided South – Wharton</p> <p>students read <u>Warriors Don't Cry</u></p>
Tu, 9/27	response lecture on <u>Warriors Don't Cry</u> - Gussow
Th, 9/29	slide presentation: race & civil rights – Wharton
Tu, 10/4	in-class essay/quiz & discussion
Th, 10/6	<p>lecture: ragtime, blues, and early jazz – Gussow</p> <p>students read Chapter 3 in <u>Southern Music, American Music</u></p>
Tu, 10/11	<p>MID-TERM EXAM</p> <p>hand out music/photo project assignment – due 11/10</p>
Th, 10/13	<p>lecture: new technologies and the spread of southern music – Wharton</p> <p>students read Chapters 4 & 5 in <u>Southern Music, American Music</u></p>
Tu, 10/18	<p>UNIT 3: THE HERITAGE DEBATE</p> <p>lecture: "Framing the Southern Past" – Gussow</p> <p>Students read <u>Confederates in the Attic</u></p>
Th, 10/20	response lecture: <u>Confederates in the Attic</u> - Wharton
Tu, 10/25	in-class essay/quiz & discussion
Th, 10/27	<p>lecture: the national resurgence of southern music – Wharton</p> <p>students read Chapters 6 & 8 in <u>Southern Music, American Music</u></p>
Tu, 11/1	lecture/discussion: "Jimmie, Hank, and Elvis: Class Origins and Southern Stardom" – Wharton & Gussow

Th, 11/3	lecture/discussion: "Southern Rock and Southern Masculinity" – Gussow students read Chapter 7 in <u>Southern Music, American Music</u>
Tu, 11/8	START UNIT 4 – CREATIVITY & COMMUNITY lecture/film: the history of the blues – Gussow students read <u>The World Don't Owe Me Nothing</u>
Th, 11/10	slide presentation: The Mississippi Delta – Wharton PROJECT DUE
Tu, 11/15	lecture: "Blues Autobiography and the Myth of the Authentic Bluesman" – Gussow
Th, 11/17	lecture: the bluesman & the Delta community – Wharton
Tu, 11/22	Thanksgiving break – no class
Th, 11/24	Thanksgiving break – no class
Tu, 11/29	music review – listening to the South
Th, 12/1	text review – reading the South