

Southern Studies 102, section 1

Introduction to Southern Studies

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

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

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Office hours: TTh 11:15-12:15; other times by appointment

Kathryn McKee, Bondurant 129C, 915-7161, kmckee@olemiss.edu

Office hours: M 2:00-3:00; TTh 11:15-12:15; other times by appointment

Required Texts (books available in the University bookstore and downtown at Square Books)

The Grits Guide to Life: Girls Raised in the South Deborah Ford and Edie Hand

Vinegar Pie and Chicken Bread Margaret Jones Bolsterli, ed.

Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl Harriet Jacobs

Ever Is a Long Time: A Journey into Mississippi's Dark Past W. Ralph Eubanks

COURSEPACK (available at Copytron)

Course Description

100-level Southern Studies courses offer students opportunities to consider life in the American South from a variety of perspectives: historical, literary, cultural, intellectual, musical, political. The theme of this spring's Southern Studies 102 class is manners. Southerners pride themselves on having good manners, and people from other regions of the country and the world credit Southerners with displaying particular social habits. But what are manners? Who decides what constitutes good manners and bad manners? What can studying manners tell us about the way a culture understands itself? What kinds of manners govern relations between men and women in the South? Between black Southerners and white Southerners? Between Southerners of different social classes? How can manners function as both bridges and boundaries? These and related questions will guide our class conversation and individual writing this semester.

Course Objectives

In Southern Studies 102, we will strive to accomplish these objectives:

1. introduce students to interdisciplinary study by demonstrating varying approaches to an issue or a text;
2. use discussion about Southern manners to explore questions of Southern identity;
3. provide students with opportunities to discuss, both orally and in writing, their observations about the South that surrounds them.

Graded Work

Students will write two short papers (10% each), participate in a group presentation (15%), and conduct and transcribe two oral interviews (15%). In addition, each student will take a midterm (20%) and a final examination covering material from throughout the semester (30%). An assignment sheet outlining each project is attached to this syllabus.

We will evaluate your writing and your exams for evidence of these qualities:

- 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 an issue's complexity;
- ability to express ideas clearly and according to acceptable standards of written English.

Course Policies

Attendance

We will lower by one letter grade the final score of students who miss more than four classes. Attendance will be checked daily.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is academic dishonesty and ignorance of what plagiarism entails is not 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 about the University's view of plagiarism. According to A Writer's Reference (Diana Hacker, 2nd edition), "To borrow another writer's words and ideas without proper acknowledgment 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" (214-215). Students unclear about the precise definition of plagiarism should see us early in the semester to clarify their understanding of this term. Faculty members have access to anti-plagiarism software that tracks material borrowed from electronic sources. Students practicing academic dishonesty will fail this course.

***Students with learning needs or with physical disabilities should notify one of the instructors early in the semester so that we may know how best to make the course manageable for you.

Reading Schedule for Southern Studies 102

- January 8 Introductions
- January 13 Lectures: Manners and Southern Culture

Unit #1: Acting Like a Lady

- January 15 Lectures: Why Women ?
Reading: The Grits Guide to Life, introduction + pp. 3-90
- January 20 Lectures: Tracking the Southern Lady
Reading: The Grits Guide to Life, pp. 91-179
- January 22 Class discussion
Reading: The Grits Guide to Life, pp. 181-249

January 27 Lecture/Film
Personal Essay Due

January 29 Panel Discussion: Being Southern Women

Unit #2: Manners, Place, and Placing

February 3 Lectures: Locating Nannie Jackson
Reading: Vinegar Pie and Chicken Bread, pp. 1-50

February 5 Lectures: Did Nannie Jackson eat Grits?
Reading: Vinegar Pie and Chicken Bread, pp. 51-100

February 10 Guest Lecture: Dr. Susan Ditto

February 12 Lectures: Mapping Southern Space

February 17 Class Discussion
Personal Landscapes Essay due

February 19 **MIDTERM EXAMINATION**

February 24 Lectures: Taking Oral Histories

Unit #3: Slavery and Reputation

February 26 Lectures: Women and Slavery
Reading: Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, introductory material + chps. 1-13

March 2 Lectures: Female Voices and Slave Narratives
Reading: Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, chps. 14-27

March 4 Lectures: Sexuality In and Out of Slavery
Reading: Incidents in the Life of Slave Girl, chps. 27-41

March 8 - 12 Spring Vacation

March 16 Lectures: Mapping Slave Space

March 18 Class Discussion
Oral Histories due

Unit #4: Manliness and Manners

March 23 Lectures: Why Men?
Reading: William Faulkner, Barn Burning, A Rose for Emily (coursepack)

- March 25 Lectures: Walking Through Faulkner's Landscape
 Reading: William Faulkner, *Dry September*, *That Evening Sun* (coursepack)
- March 30 Lectures: Masculinity and Race
 Reading: Elliot Gorn, *Gouge and Bite* (coursepack)
 Kenneth Greenberg, *Masks and Slavery* (coursepack)
- April 1 Guest Lecture: Ted Ownby
 Reading: Ted Ownby, *Freedom, Manhood, and White Male
 Tradition* (coursepack)
- April 6 Panel Discussion: Being Southern Men
- April 8 Popular Culture Group Presentations
- April 13 Popular Culture Group Presentations

Unit #5: Grace and Place

- April 15 Lectures: Migration and Reverse Migration
 Reading: *Ever Is a Long Time*, pp. 1-78
- April 20 Lectures: What Comes After Racism?
 Reading: *Ever Is a Long Time*, pp. 79-157
- April 22 Guest Lecture: Susan Glisson
 Reading: *Ever Is a Long Time*, pp. 158-234
- April 27 Film and Class Discussion
- April 29 Course wrap-up and preparation for final exam