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: 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