

Winter 2003; English 3140
Survey of American Literature
"DISCOURSES OF PEOPLE AND PLACE"

Professor: Richard Grusin
Teaching Assistant: Julianne Newmark

Class Times:

The lecture will meet in 134 State Hall on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:35 to 10:30. The discussions sections will meet at the following times:

Section 001: 10:40-11:35 Wednesdays in 114 SH

Section 002: 9:35-10:30 Fridays in 111SH

Section 003: 10:40-11:35 Fridays in 114 SH

Office Hours, etc.:

Dr. Grusin's office hours will be by appointment. Julianne Newmark's office hours will be held on Mondays from 10:45 to 12:45 in room 2244, 51 W. Warren.

Contact Information:

Dr. Grusin: 577-7692; r.grusin@wayne.edu

Julianne Newmark: 577-5627; j.newmark@wayne.edu

Required Texts (Available at Marwil Bookstore):

Nathaniel Hawthorne: The House of the Seven Gables

Herman Melville: Billy Budd and Other Stories

Willa Cather, My Ántonia

Zora Neal Hurston, Their Eyes Were Watching God

William Faulkner: Go Down, Moses

Toni Morrison, Beloved

Leslie Marmon Silko, Ceremony

Coursepack. Available at University Copy.

The above books are available at Marwil Bookstore. Marwil Bookstore and University Copy are located in the same shopping center, situated on the southeast corner of Cass and Warren

Other Required Supplies:

You will need a style guide that includes the MLA guidelines, like the MLA Handbook or Keys for Writers, two blue books (for you midterm and final exams), and something to take notes in during lecture and discussion meetings.

Policies:

Attendance

You are expected to attend all lecture and discussion sections. The more absences you have, the poorer you will perform in the course. Your exams will cover material presented in discussion and lecture meetings. You are responsible for ALL of this

material, thus if you miss class, you will miss information on which you might be examined or on which you might have to write an essay.

Participation

Participation in both lecture and discussion amounts to 10% of your final grade. This grade will be based on your participation in discussion sections and on consistently bringing one question to each lecture session based on the readings for that day. You will need to write this question – a content-based question (not just a “yes or no” or simple-answer question) on a sheet of paper to hand in and you will need to keep a copy in your notebook. At the beginning of each lecture these questions will be collected by Ms. Newmark. In each lecture session several students will be chosen at random to ask their questions. Over the course of the semester you can expect to be called upon numerous times to pose your question. Your preparedness for this will contribute to your participation grade.

Late Assignments

The due dates for both papers are marked in the course calendar. The starting grade for late papers will decrease by one grade level per school-day late (from A to A- for one day late, for example). Missed quizzes cannot be made up.

Format of Papers

All papers must be typed, double-spaced, with one-inch margins. Please use twelve-point font, either New York or Times New Roman. Papers must strictly follow the MLA guidelines. Please do not enclose your papers in binders or folders. Also, it is not necessary to have a cover page.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is *very* serious. Plagiarism is the use of another person's ideas, words, theories, etc., without giving the proper annotation or acknowledgment. This means that if you include someone else's words in one of your papers, and do not adequately cite the reference, you will be guilty of plagiarism. This applies to both print materials and electronic texts. If you read a website pertaining to a text from the course, or download materials about a certain author or book, you **MUST** cite this – even if you rework it or “put it in your own words.” If you do not cite in full from the sites, books, or articles from which you have drawn, you will be guilty of plagiarism.

Plagiarized papers will receive an E and the student will receive an E for the course. The plagiarized paper will then be turned over to the English Department, which will pursue further action in accordance with University guidelines. To avoid this awful fate, be sure to sufficiently quote and acknowledge the sources in your papers. A style guide will give you ample information on citation and will thus help you avoid incurring the serious penalties associated with plagiarism. If you have any questions, ask Dr. Grusin or Ms. Newmark.

Various

Please turn off pagers and cellular phones during class.

If you have a physical or mental impairment that may interfere with your ability to complete successfully the requirements for this course, please contact EAS in Room 583 of the SCB to discuss appropriate accommodations on a confidential basis. Telephone: 577-1851.

Course Description:

American literature is a literature of people and place. At the most basic level this means that it is a literature written by many different people from many different places. But more fundamentally this means that American literature takes as one of its most important concerns the question of people and place, the question of how one can create a sense of national identity in a place whose people come from many other places, from many other national identities and traditions. For Americans, living in this "place" has always been an exercise in defining identity in relation to physical surroundings and social realities. This lecture and discussion course will introduce students to American literature from conquest through the twentieth century. As a "survey" of literature, this course expects that students will gain familiarity with various American literatures and will begin to understand these literatures as parts of an American discourse on people and place. Students will encounter texts that concern encounters between groups of people, between people and place, and between individuals and American national identity. Students in this course are required to attend both lecture and discussion sessions, to take a mid-term and final examination, and to write discussion-session exercises, quizzes, and two course papers.

Grading

Essay 1, four pages	15%
Essay 2, seven to eight pages	15%
Midterm exam	20%
Final exam	35%
Quizzes (five)	5%
<u>Class Participation</u>	10%
Total	100%

Grading Scale:

A: 94% and up	A-: 90%-93%	
B+: 87%-89%	B: 84%-86%	B-: 80%-83%
C+: 77%-79%	C: 74%-76%	C-: 70%-73%
D+: 67%-69%	D: 64%-66%	D-: 60%-63%

Course Calendar:

The author names and page numbers in **bold** are readings for **lecture sessions**.

The readings listed in *italics* are for *discussion sections* and are included in the coursepack, unless you are informed otherwise by Ms. Newmark.

Friday, January 10

Discussion: *Miscellaneous*

Monday, January 13

Course introduction; Distribution of syllabus

- Wednesday, January 15 **Hawthorne 1-69**
Discussion: Cabeza de Vaca, Bartolomé de las Casas, Native American creation legends
- Friday, January 17
Discussion: Cabeza de Vaca, Bartolomé de las Casas, Native American creation legends
- Monday, January 20 **Hawthorne 70-132**
- Wednesday, January 22 **Hawthorne 133-186**
Discussion: Cooper, "Notions of the Americans" and Emerson, "Self Reliance"
- Friday, January 24
Discussion: Cooper, "Notions of the Americans" and Emerson, "Self Reliance"
- Monday, January 27 **Hawthorne 187-252**
- Wednesday, January 29 **Hawthorne 253-319**
Discussion: Poe, "Ligeia" and "The Black Cat"
- Friday, January 31
Discussion: Poe, "Ligeia" and "The Black Cat"
- Monday, February 3 **Melville, Benito Cereno 161-210**
- Wednesday, February 5 **Melville, Benito Cereno 210-258**
*Discussion: Phyllis Wheatley, three poems
 Frederick Douglass, excerpts from the Narrative of the Life . . .*
- Friday, February 7
*Discussion: Phyllis Wheatley, three poems
 Frederick Douglass, excerpts from the Narrative of the Life . . .*
- Monday, February 10 **Cather 1-90**
Essay One Assigned
- Wednesday, February 12 **Cather 91-161**
Discussion: Zitkala-Sa
- Friday, February 14
Discussion: Zitkala-Sa
- Monday, February 17 **Cather [Newmark] 162-188**
Discussion of Essay One; Questions
- Wednesday, February 19 **Cather 189-238**
Discussion: Cather discussion; Great Plains diaspora
- Friday, February 21
Discussion: Cather discussion; Great Plains diaspora

Monday, February 24 **Hurston 1-75**
ESSAY 1 DUE IN LECTURE

Wednesday, February 26 **Hurston [Newmark] 76-128**
Discussion: Langston Hughes poems and Richard Wright "The Man Who Was Almost a Man" [Grusin]

Friday, February 28
Discussion: Langston Hughes poems and Richard Wright "The Man Who Was Almost a Man" [Grusin]

Monday, March 3 **Hurston 129-193**
Midterm review

Wednesday, March 5 **Midterm Exam**
Discussion: No discussion

Friday, March 7
Discussion: No discussion

Monday, March 10 SPRING BREAK
Wednesday, March 12 SPRING BREAK
Friday, March 14 SPRING BREAK

Monday, March 17 **Faulkner 1-75**

Wednesday, March 19 **Faulkner 76-154**
Discussion: Jean Toomer; Hart Crane

Friday, March 21
Discussion: Jean Toomer; Hart Crane

Monday, March 24 **Faulkner 155-243**

Wednesday, March 26 **Faulkner 243-315**
Discussion: Faulkner discussion
Ralph Ellison

Friday, March 28
Discussion: Faulkner discussion
Ralph Ellison

Monday, March 31 **Faulkner 316-365**
Assign Essay Two

Wednesday, April 2 **Morrison 1-63**
Discussion: Countee Cullen, Alice Walker "Everyday Use"

Friday, April 4
Discussion: Countee Cullen, Alice Walker "Everyday Use"

Monday, April 7	Morrison 64-134
Wednesday, April 9	Morrison 135-199
<i>Discussion:</i>	<i>Morrison discussion</i>
Friday, April 11	
<i>Discussion:</i>	<i>Morrison discussion</i>
Monday, April 14	Morrison 200-275
	ESSAY 2 DUE IN LECTURE
Wednesday, April 16	Silko 1-82
<i>Discussion:</i>	<i>Tiffany Midge</i>
	<i>Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur</i>
Friday, April 18	
<i>Discussion:</i>	<i>Tiffany Midge</i>
	<i>Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur</i>
Monday, April 21	Silko 83-178
Wednesday, April 23	Silko 179-262
<i>Discussion:</i>	<i>Miscellaneous</i>
Friday, April 25	University Study Day
	Review Session – TO BE SCHEDULED
Wednesday, April 30	Final Exam