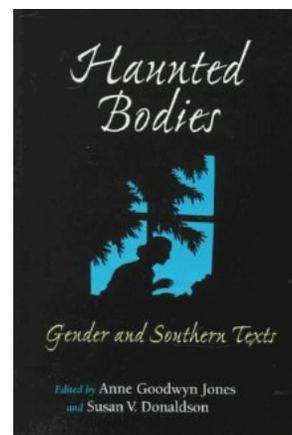


ENGL 6120 Seminar in American Literature II

The Female Aesthetic in the Modern South:
A Confederacy of Water Moccasins
CRN 13309, Sect. 01, Tues. 5:30-8:00, Paff 309

Professor: Dr. Rebecca Harrison
Office: TLC 2225
Office Hours: T/R 2:30-4:00 & by appt.
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“‘Regional,’ I think, is a careless term, as well as a condescending one, because what it does is fail to differentiate between the localized raw material of life and its outcome as art.”
—Eudora Welty

“In the face of brutality I was prudent. Before injustice I held my peace. I sacrificed the things in hand for the good of [the] hypothetical whole. I believed in the tongue instead of the fist. As an armor against oppression I taught patience and faith in the human soul I know now how wrong I was. I have been a traitor to myself and to my people. All that is not. Now is the time to act and to act quickly. Fight cunning with cunning and might with might.”—Carson McCullers

Course Description: As these quotes demonstrate, this course will lead you into the murky swamp of modern Southern women’s literature—into what Patricia Yaegar calls “dirt eating, finger sucking” writing—where we’ll take a deep dive into their forward thinking imaginary and, at times, even dangerous engagement with the restrictive cultural and contested ideologies of the South. From literary legends like Ellen Glasgow and Eudora Welty to the forgotten voices of Evelyn Scott and Beatrice Ravenel, we’ll examine a selection of understudied texts that stand *against* traditions of moonlight and magnolias in favor of a modern, grotesque, provocative, and even violent aesthetic focused on contending with the haunted bodies of the region. We’ll also fast forward to the raw realism—the moonshine and Marlboros—of contemporary Grit lit alongside a journey with the surreal and the decaying South as spotlighted in contemporary works like *Beasts of the Southern Wild*. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to do original research on a selection of unpublished manuscript materials, following in the tradition of the revisionist scholars we’ll study and who are responsible for the increased visibility of the women writers of the South.

Course Goals: Students will

1. acquire an enhanced familiarity with the female canon of the modern South and the characteristics that distinguish their voice in this literary period.
2. develop an awareness of the social forces, historical events, and cultural interests that impact the women writing in this period and develop an appreciation for the significance of their unique contributions to post-Civil War American literary history.
3. understand the specific cultural context, including the climate of literary production of the period that gave rise and affected this group of writers.
4. recognize the implications and applications of the ideas and methods of the seminar and will reveal their understanding by demonstrating both oral and written facility in applying the seminar material to the critical analysis of literary and cultural texts.

- engage in meaningful secondary research to facilitate their understanding of contemporary critical currents on these cultural texts and demonstrate their critical fluency.

Required Texts & Materials: Please purchase listed editions.

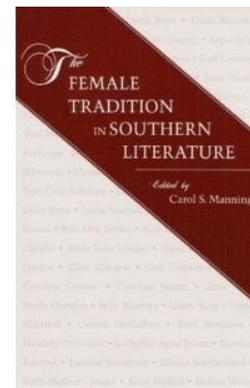
- Glasgow, Ellen. *Vein of Iron*. UP of Virginia, 1995.
- McCullers, Carson. *The Member of the Wedding*. New York: Mariner, 2004.
- Ravenel, Beatrice W. Published and unpublished selections (pdf provided).
- Scott, Evelyn. *Escapade*. UP of Virginia, 1995.
- Smith, Lillian. *Killers of the Dream*. Norton, 1994.
- Welty, Eudora. *The Collected Stories of Eudora Welty*. Harcourt Brace, 1980.
- Beasts of the Southern Wild* (Directed by Benh Zeitlin).
- Additional short fiction, poetry, and critical reading will be distributed electronically.
- A two pocket folder for turning in essays.

Recommended Texts & Materials:

- The book images on this syllabus represent excellent background and contextual reading: historical, critical, and individual author case studies.

Reference Materials:

- Flora and MacKethan eds. *The Companion to Southern Literature*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State UP, 2002.
- Perry and Weak's eds. *The History of Southern Women's Literature*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2002.
- Good journals in the area include the *Mississippi Quarterly*, the *Southern Quarterly*, *South*, the *Eudora Welty Review*, etc.



Assignments & Grade Distribution: In-class presentations, group work, and other activities will complement class discussions on a regular basis. As the semester progresses, I will discuss and/or distribute specific guidelines for each written assignment. Please Note: You must complete all assignment to pass this course.

- (40%) (2) Critical Response Essays worth 20% each. (Learning Outcomes 1, 2, 3, & 4.)
- (35%) Research Project. (Learning Outcomes 4 & 5.)
- (10%) Critical collaborative teaching demonstration. (Learning Outcomes 4 & 5.)
- (15%) Class participation. (Learning Outcomes 1, 2, 3, & 4.)

Grading Summary:

Papers will be graded according to the following scale:

A+ = 98	B+ = 88	C+ = 78	D+ = 68	F = 50
A = 95	B = 85	C = 75	D = 65	
A- = 92	B- = 82	C- = 72	D- = 62	

Reading Schedule

This schedule provides a *tentative* layout of in-class and out-of-class activities and assignments. As it is based on the estimated progress of our class, some modification (including additions, postponements, or deletions) will be necessary as we move through the semester.

Class Date	Assignments/In-class Activities	Due Dates & Notes.
T 1/8	Introductions, syllabus, & class overview.	Reminder: Fee payment deadline for Spring is Fri. (1/11).
T 1/15	A Problematic Position: Gender in Southern Letters. Read Jones “Dixie’s Diadem, Manning “Introduction” and “The Real Beginning,” and poetry selections (e-copies).	Please Note: A few of the texts are meaty; you will want to get <i>ahead</i> on your reading taking detailed notes.
T 1/22	What to do with the Lady? Ellen Glasgow <i>Vein of Iron</i> (Preface through 187).	
T 1/29	No Class; Unscheduled UWG Closing.	
T 2/5	<i>Vein of Iron</i> continued (188 to end).	
T 2/12	Carson McCullers <i>Member of the Wedding</i> (full text).	
T 2/19	Writing the Self: Escapades in Memoir. Evelyn Scott <i>Escapade</i> (1-176).	Due: Essay one.
T 2/26	<i>Escapade</i> continued (177 to end).	Reminder: Last day to withdraw with a grade of W from 16 week courses is tomorrow (2/27).
T 3/5	Lillian Smith <i>Killers of the Dream</i> (1-190).	
T 3/12	Changing the Game: History and Myth Making. Eudora Welty <i>The Golden Apples</i> (selections as follows): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Shower of Gold” (263-274). • “June Recital” (275-330). 	FYI —Each student should be signed up for a collaborative teaching demonstration by this time.
T 3/19	UWG Spring Break. No Class.	
T 3/26	Welty <i>The Golden Apples</i> (continued): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Sir Rabbit” (331-341). • “Moon Lake” (342-374). 	Due: Essay two.

T 4/2	Eudora Welty <i>The Golden Apples</i> (continued): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Moon Lake” (second half). • “The Whole World Knows” (375-392). 	
T 4/9	Eudora Welty <i>The Golden Apples</i> (continued): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Music From Spain” (393-426). • “The Wanders” (427-461). 	Due: Research project proposals.
T 4/16	Collaborative Teaching Demonstrations: Specific Assignments TBA.	
T 4/23	Collaborative Teaching Demonstrations: Specific Assignments TBA.	
T 4/30	Collaborative Teaching Demonstrations: Specific Assignments TBA. <i>FYI—We are using the “reading day” in place of the final exam period scheduled for 5/9.</i>	
T 5/7	Papers are due in my office (TLC 2225) by 5:00 p.m.	Due: Final Research Project and Optional Revisions.
<i>Reading Schedule Last Updated on 4/01/2019.</i>		

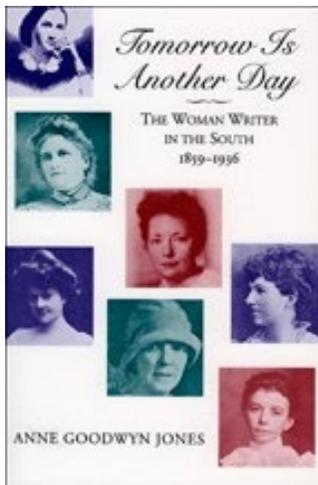
Please Note: In the event West Georgia closes due to inclement weather, you should continue your out-of-class assignments according to this schedule.

Course Policies

Attendance: Attendance and punctuality are mandatory and key to your success in this course. Arrive to class on time having completed any reading/writing assignments and be prepared to participate in class discussions and group work. As this class meets once a week, a student is allowed *two (2)* absences over the course of the semester. Be aware that *no distinction exists between excused and unexcused absences*. Students who miss more than two classes will no longer be able to pass the class. In addition, students should be aware that if they elect to withdrawal before the mid-point, they will receive a “W.” If they withdrawal after the mid-point, they will receive a “WF.” Please note that tardiness counts against your two allotted absences at a rate of 0.5 per day late. In other words, if you are late to class twice, it will count as one missed class period. In addition, tardiness will negatively affect your class participation grade and may result in missed in-class work that cannot be made up. FYI—University policy regarding severe weather and emergency closings is posted at <https://www.westga.edu/police/policies.php>; official announcements about class and/or examination cancellations will be made by the university President and posted on the UWG homepage.

Breaks: Given that this class is a graduate seminar, we will have a scheduled class break at approximately 6:40 p.m. each day. Save coffee and snack runs, leg stretching, and other such business for the scheduled break. Also, please return promptly to class by the designated time to avoid missing important material.

Paper Format: All papers must be typed, double-spaced, use Times New Roman 12 point font and standard 1 inch margins, and conform to all MLA guidelines (8th edition). Also, please submit your work in a clearly labeled two pocket folder when it is due.



Make-Up Work, Late Work, & Recycled Papers:

- In-class work cannot be made up and will count as zeros in the daily grade component.
- Recycled papers (i.e. turning in papers written for other professors) are not permissible in this class and will result in an automatic zero for the assignment.
- All formal assignments are due at the start of class on the date specified in the course schedule. If you must miss a class on a date when an assignment is due, you need to make prior arrangements with me to submit your work on time.
- Late assignments are subject to a *five point deduction* for *each day* submitted after the due date, including weekend days.

Plagiarism: The Department of English and Philosophy defines plagiarism as taking personal credit for the words and ideas of others as they are presented in electronic, print, and verbal sources. The use of another individual’s words, phrases, or ideas without proper citation will result in the following at my discretion (no questions):

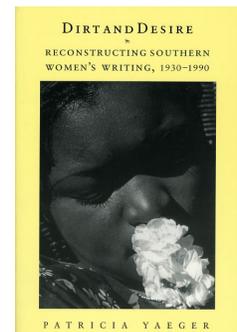
- a zero on the assignment.
- possible failure of this course.
- an official academic dishonesty report filed with UWG, which could lead to suspension from the university.

In short, as members of the UWG community, I expect you to fully abide by the university honor code, which can be found at <http://www.westga.edu/handbook/59.php>

Optional Revision Policy: You may revise either of the first two essays for resubmission. If the revised assignment receives a higher grade, it will be used in your final grade calculation in place of the original. The revision *must be meaningful* and submitted *along with the original, graded assignment* in order to be considered. Revised papers are due on 5/7/19; however, you may turn them in at any point before that date as well.

Conferences: Each student is required to attend at least one conference with me during the course of the semester about the research project. Having that said, my office door is *always* open to you. Please come by during the hours noted on this syllabus whenever you have questions concerning class discussions, need advice or help with reading/writing assignments, etc. If you cannot attend my scheduled office hours, email me for an alternative appointment.

Class Decorum: Throughout the semester, we will examine controversial topics, materials, and our critical reactions to them. Everyone in this class has both the right and the responsibility to express his or her opinions in class discussions and to treat one another's ideas respectfully and seriously, even if – or especially if – you disagree. Consequently, ill-spirited discussions, unmerited comments, and intolerance are not permitted in the classroom. Also, please raise your hand when you would like to have the floor. This facilitates structured discussion and equal participation.



Controversial Language: Some of these texts contain offensive language as they reflect a racially charged and prejudicial period of American history; this language does not necessarily reflect the personal opinion of the author. While we will squarely address these issues, I prefer that you do not employ this language in class discussions.

Disruptive Behavior: Students may be dismissed from any class meeting at which they exhibit behavior that disrupts the learning environment of others. Such behavior includes—arriving late for class, sleeping (or the appearance of it) in class, allowing cell phones to ring, text-messaging, frequently leaving class, and speaking disrespectfully to the instructor and/or to other students. Each dismissal of this kind will count as an absence and will be applied toward the attendance requirements policy above.

Email: In accordance with university policy, all email correspondence must take place through the UWG email system. Please check your account regularly as I will email the class often. Also, keep in mind that email is professional correspondence; thus, remember to properly address your audience, use the same standards of writing that you would in any paper you write, and sign your email. FYI—While I normally respond to student emails within 48 hours during the work week, please note that I do not regularly answer emails sent after noon on Friday until Monday morning.



Student Support: The UWG community cares deeply about student welfare and is committed to providing a variety of support mechanisms for those who need additional academic support or who are experiencing distressing situations. The following resources may be helpful if you have specific needs that arise:

- Center for Academic Success—<http://www.westga.edu/cas/>

- Counseling Center—<https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/index.php>
- UWG Cares—<http://www.westga.edu/UWGCares/>

Special Accommodations: Students in the UWG community have a right to equal access to classes and materials, regardless of special needs, whether temporary or permanent. Students with needs on file with Accessibility Services will be accommodated in this class per West Georgia regulations. Please send me your packet and see me immediately for arrangements. Accessibility services may be reached at (770) 839-6428 or see <https://www.westga.edu/accessibility/>



*Students should review the full
common syllabus policies for UWG at*

<https://www.westga.edu/UWGSyllabusPolicies/>

*Information about the regulations governing
campus carry at UWG can be found at*

<https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php>

