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**ENGLISH 282**

**FICTION**

**BULLETIN INFORMATION**

ENGL 282 – Fiction (3 credit hours)  
**Course Description:**  
Fiction from several countries and historical periods, illustrating the nature of the genre.  
Prerequisites: ENGL 101 and 102 or equivalent

**SAMPLE COURSE OVERVIEW**

Southern fiction contributes in interesting ways to regional and national dialogue.  Studying it not just as American literature, but in the context of how writers respond to a particular regional tradition and set of circumstances, is useful to readers from different backgrounds interested in how literature is created and its relationship to the society it reflects.  This section of English 282 explores the intersection of fact, fantasy, and ideologies about regional experience in selected recent southern fiction to consider the purposes and possibilities of novel-reading in the twenty-first century.  In addition to completing the course readings and attending and participating in class, participants should expect to write two short essays of their own and to demonstrate mastery of course materials on quizzes, a midterm, and a cumulative final.

**ITEMIZED LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**Upon successful completion of English 282, students will be able to:**

1. Demonstrate familiarity with a range of novels and short stories
2. Articulate insights into the purposes and methods of literary fiction
3. Identify and discuss fiction’s elements and techniques
4. Conduct a competent textual analysis, including deployment of close reading techniques
5. Write effective analytical essays interpreting literary texts.

**SAMPLE REQUIRED TEXTS/SUGGESTED READINGS/MATERIALS**

The following texts are available at the Russell House; it is acceptable to obtain comparable editions from other sources:

1. Elise Blackwell, The Unnatural History of Cypress Parish; James Lee Burke, Tin Roof Blowdown; Octavia Butler, Kindred; Pam Durban, So Far Back; Josephine Humphreys, Nowhere Else on Earth; Randall Kenan, A Visitation of Spirits; Alice Randall, Rebel Yell; Ron Rash, Saints at the River; Monique Truong, Bitter in the Mouth.
2. Students need regular access to a collegiate dictionary, as well as to the internet and a printer to obtain emailed announcements and additional reading assignments from Blackboard.

**SAMPLE ASSIGNMENTS AND/OR EXAM**

1. **Midterm and Final Exam**
2. **Quizze**s
3. **2 essays:** Book Review Assignments
   1. The first review, due any time before the midterm, will be on one of the novels read for class before the midterm.  The second, due any time before the last class, will be on an outside novel by a living Carolina writer whose work the student has never read before.
   2. Students should select outside novels in consultation with the instructor, and the first question on the midterm (5 points) will ask what novel has been selected and why.  The list of approved authors below is not exhaustive, but provides a place to get started; note that certain well-known authors, such as Nicholas Sparks and Pat Conroy, have been excluded.
   3. Successful book reviews will be 3-4 pages long, make an argument, be well-organized, target a clearly-defined audience of serious readers, draw on appropriate evidence to support its point(s), display thoughtful reflection on the text, avoid summary, and follow course guidelines for written assignments.  Each book review will be evaluated as a whole, but here are six competencies in which the instructor will be interested as she reads.
   4. Strong reviews will be (1) *clearly organized* around an (2) *appropriate argumentative thesis*, will draw on (3) *specific examples* from the novel to support its points, and will take on (4) *challenging topics* to demonstrate (5) *thoughtful reflection* upon course competencies and themes.  Of course, reviews should be (6) *free of surface errors*.

**SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE WITH TIMELINE OF TOPICS, READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS, EXAMS/PROJECTS**

This schedule is a projected outline of where our studies may take us this semester and when.  Expect changes as the term continues and we get to know each other, and be sure to keep ahead of such changes by attending class, arriving on time, and checking Blackboard Announcements.

**Class 1** Introduction to Southern literature

**Class 2**  Introduction to the southern novel

Reading due: Everett story from Blackboard (BB) and Nowhere Else on Earth “Prologue”

**Class 3** Continue Humphreys

Reading due: Nowhere (Chaps 1-4).

**Class 4** Continue Humphreys

Reading due: Finish Nowhere

**Class 5** Introduction to book reviews

Reading due: Humphreys reading from BB

**Class 6** Begin So Far Back

Reading due: So Far pp. 1-103

**Class 7**  Continue Durban

Reading due: So Far pp. 104-182

**Class 8** Reading due: Finish So Far; Durban reading from BB

**Class 9** Begin Kindred

**Class 10** Continue Butler

**Class 11** Reading due: Butler reading from BB

**Class 12** Begin The Unnatural History of Cypress Parish

**Class 13** Continue Blackwell

**Class 14** Reading due: Blackwell reading from BB

**Class 15** Guest lecture (TBA)

Begin Rebel Yell

**Class 16** Continue Randall

**Class 17** Writing due: Last day to turn in book review 1

Reading due: Randall reading from BB

**Class 18** Midterm

Research due: Proposal for book review 2

**Class 19** Begin Tin Roof Blowdown

**Class 20** Continue Burke

Reading due: Burke reading from BB

**Class 21** Begin Saints at the River

**Class 22** Continue Rash

**Class 23** Reading due: Rash reading from BB

**Class 24** Guest lecture (TBA)

Begin A Visitation of Spirits

**Class 25** Continue Kenan

**Class 26** Reading due: Kenan reading from BB

**Class 27** Begin Bitter in the Mouth

Continue Truong

**Class 28** Reading due: Truong reading from BB

**Class 29** Conclusion and course evaluation

Writing due: Last day to turn in book review 2

Optional review session

**Final Exam according to university schedule**