

WRI 290
WRITING THE SOUTH
SP 2018

TUESDAY AND THURSDAY 4:00 – 5:30

HEARST HALL, Room 105

Instructor: Professor Jessica Handler

Office: Hearst 301 E-mail: jhandler@oglethorpe.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30 – 3:30, Wednesdays, 1: - 3:00, Thursdays, 1:30- 3:30.

“Tell about the South. What’s it like there. What do they do there.
Why do they live there. Why do they live it all.”
- William Faulkner. Absalom, Absalom

What does it mean to experience the American South? To be from here? To leave here? In this writing-intensive course, we will read, watch, and listen to the work of well-known and lesser-known Southern writers in order to investigate a variety of answers to these questions. Students will be expected to explore, in writing, their own ideas and experiences of the American South, and conduct written analyses of cultural representations other than their own.

Prerequisites: COR 101/102.

Objectives:

- Define and identify basic literary techniques such as point of view, language, plot, setting, and characterization; understand how these choices can have an impact on the reading experience.
- Integrate comprehension of writing techniques deployed in assessing and creating film narratives.
- Recognize authorial choice and identify elements in canonical and contemporary reading.
- Use the assigned in-class writing to explore and develop ideas appropriate to assignments
- Recognize all components of MLA manuscript format, and use successfully as required
- Discover and sharpen a writing “voice” that is unique, creative, and engaging across a variety of writing opportunities designed for different audiences

Required Texts:

- Strunk, William, Jr., and E.B. White. *The Elements of Style*. Illustrated by Maira Kalman. Penguin Books, NY 2005.
- Weekly readings distributed as handouts or on Moodle.
- One book either from the reading list on this syllabus or the resource options.
- One film, either from the reading list on this syllabus or the resource options.

Obligations of Students: Students will:

- Come to class prepared by reading, understanding and becoming conversant with all assigned readings.
- Come to class prepared to participate in an engaged, civil, and respectful way.
- Submit all required artifacts including draft work and presentations by the deadline and in the manner mandated.
- Produce all work ethically according to the requirements of the Oglethorpe Honor Code.
- Confer with the instructor in a timely manner.
- Submit homework by the stated deadline, stapled, proofread, and pledged.

⚡ **In this class**, we may read works dealing with complex emotional topics including race, gender, and identity, and these experiences may become part of our class discussions. If you are concerned that you may need advance warnings for any specific subjects, or if any issues emerge for you during the semester, please make an appointment to speak with me in private, so that I can offer you support and guidance in securing your mental and emotional well-being.

Hate speech and graphic violence against humans or animals are in no way acceptable for this classroom and related activities. Students whose creative work is deemed by me to be inappropriate for a classroom setting violate both the Honor Code and the code of conduct in this course.

Grading and Assignments:

In-class participation	10%
Short research assignment	10%
Online reading Journal	20%
Film paper	10%
Essay #1	10%
Essay #2	10%
Community reflection paper	10%
Critical Paper	20%
	100%

Assignment breakdown TK

Your grade will be assigned based on the regular University grading scale:

A (93-100)	A- (90-92)	B+ (87-89)	B (83-86)	B- (80-82)	C+ (77-79)
C (73-76)	C- (70-72)	D+ (67-69)	D (60-66)	F (0-59)	

⚡ **Papers are due as hard copy at the beginning of the class meeting on the date indicated in the syllabus. No digital work (email, Moodle, or other digital delivery medium) will be accepted without prior agreement, on a case-by-case basis. The exception to this is the online reading journal.**

⌘ **No late work will be accepted in this class without a documented medical excuse. Miss an assignment, earn a zero.**

⌘ **Failure to pledge an assignment equals an automatic five-point deduction in the grade.**

The grade of “I” (Incomplete) will not be assigned in this class unless a documented illness or other special circumstance prevents timely submission of the final piece(s) of work required for the course.

Note: I will not change your assignment grade except in the case of a mathematical error. I will not participate in any conversation or answer any email message whose subject is grade grubbing. If you wish for me to reconsider your grade on a given assignment, re-submit the graded copy of the assignment along with a grammatically accurate one page note explaining why you believe the grade should be raised. If I find your argument frivolous, I will lower the original grade. That said, I encourage students to come to me -- early in the semester -- asking for advice on how to raise their performance (and thus their grade) in future assignments.

⌘ **Attendance Policy:** *I have no attendance policy in this class.* This doesn't mean you're free to skip class without consequences. It means that those consequences are entirely your responsibility. Miss class and you miss discussions, content, and assigned work, which means that your grades suffers. The ownership of your grade is yours. Take responsibility.

Participation: This is a small-group seminar class, which means that your full attention and participation are necessary to a collegial experience. Participation is worth 10% of your course grade, which means that **unless you attend class regularly and speak up in class in order to contribute to discussions and teamwork, you will find it difficult to earn an “A” in this class.**

Classroom Etiquette: Laptop computers and tablets are allowed in class for note taking, composition, and research as directed by instructor or student mentor. Non-classroom use of these devices, e.g. checking personal email, text-messages, use of social media or gaming, will result in confiscation of the device for the duration of the class. Continued violation of the policy can result in expulsion from the course.

⌘ I will collect cellular phones at the start of each class meeting.

Withdrawal: Up to 5:00 PM on March 19, students can withdraw from this class and receive the automatic grade of “W” (Withdrawn). The grade of “W” does not negatively impact a student's grade-point average (GPA). Withdrawal from individual courses is not permitted after 5:00 PM on April 30. Students are cautioned that completion of this course is a graduation requirement. Therefore, students are cautioned that they should not withdraw from this course. Nevertheless, schedule change is a student-driven process. You are urged to proceed with caution.

Academic Honesty: Persons who come to Oglethorpe University for work and study join a community that is committed to high standards of academic honesty. The honor code contains the responsibilities we accept by becoming members of the community and the procedures we will follow should our commitment to honesty be questioned.

The students, faculty and staff of Oglethorpe University expect each other to act with integrity in the academic endeavor they share. Members of the faculty expect that students complete work honestly and act toward them in ways consistent with that expectation. Students are expected to behave honorably in their academic work and are expected to insist on honest behavior from their peers. Oglethorpe welcomes all who accept our principles of honest behavior. We believe

that this code will enrich our years at the University and allow us to practice living in earnest the honorable, self-governed lives required of society's respected leaders.

Our honor code is an academic one. The code proscribes cheating in general terms and also in any of its several specialized sub-forms (including but not limited to plagiarism, lying, stealing and interacting fraudulently or disingenuously with the honor council). The Code defines cheating as "the umbrella under which all academic malfeasance falls. Cheating is any willful activity involving the use of deceit or fraud in order to attempt to secure an unfair academic advantage for oneself or others or to attempt to cause an unfair academic disadvantage to others. Cheating deprives persons of the opportunity for a fair and reasonable assessment of their own work and/or a fair comparative assessment between and among the work produced by members of a group. More broadly, cheating undermines our community's confidence in the honorable state to which we aspire."

The honor code applies to all behavior related to the academic enterprise. Thus, it extends beyond the boundaries of particular courses and classrooms *per se*, and yet it does not extend out of the academic realm into the purely social one.

Examples of cheating include but are not limited to:

- 1.1** The unauthorized possession or use of notes, texts, electronic devices (including, for example, computers and mobile phones), online materials or other such unauthorized materials/devices in fulfillment of course requirements.
- 1.2** Copying another person's work or participation in such an effort.
- 1.3** An attempt or participation in an attempt to fulfill the requirements of a course with work other than one's original work for that course.
- 1.4** Forging or deliberately misrepresenting data or results.
- 1.5** Obtaining or offering either for profit or free of charge materials one might submit (or has submitted) for academic credit. This includes uploading course materials to online sites devoted, in whole or in part, to aiding and abetting cheating under the guise of providing "study aids." There is no prohibition concerning uploading exemplars of one's work to one's personal website or to departmental, divisional, University or professional society websites for purposes of publicity, praise, examination or review by potential employers, graduate school admissions committees, etc.
- 1.6** Violating the specific directions concerning the operation of the honor code in relation to a particular assignment.
- 1.7** Making unauthorized copies of graded work for future distribution.
- 1.8** Claiming credit for a group project to which one did not contribute.
- 1.9** Plagiarism, which includes representing someone else's words, ideas, data or original research as one's own and in general failing to footnote or otherwise acknowledge the source of such work. One has the responsibility of avoiding plagiarism by taking adequate notes on reference materials (including material taken off the internet or other electronic sources) used in the preparation of reports, papers and other coursework.
- 1.10** Lying, such as: Lying about the reason for an absence to avoid a punitive attendance penalty or to receive an extension on an exam or on a paper's due date; fraudulently obtaining Petrel Points by leaving an event soon after registering one's attendance and without offering to surrender the associated Petrel Point, or by claiming fictitious

attendance for oneself or another; forging or willfully being untruthful on documents related to the academic enterprise, such as on an application for an independent study or on a registration form.

1.11 Stealing, such as: Stealing another’s work so that he/she may not submit it or so that work can be illicitly shared; stealing reserve or other materials from the library; stealing devices and materials (such as computers, calculators, textbooks, notebooks and software) used in whole or in part to support the academic enterprise.

1.12 Fraudulent interaction on the part of students with the honor council, such as: Willfully refusing to testify after having been duly summoned; failing to appear to testify (barring a *bona fide* last-minute emergency) after having been duly summoned; testifying untruthfully.

Students pledge that they have completed assignments honestly by attaching the following statement to each piece of work submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a course taken for academic credit:

“I pledge that I have acted honorably.” (Followed by the student’s signature)

The honor code is in force for every student who is enrolled (either full- or part-time) in any of the academic programs of Oglethorpe University at any given time. All cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be handled in accordance with the provisions established in this code. The honor council has sole jurisdiction in matters of suspected academic dishonesty. Alternative ways of dealing with cases of suspected academic fraud are prohibited. In cases of alleged academic dishonesty on the part of students, the honor council is the final arbiter.

Students with Disabilities: If you are a student with a disability or disability-related issue and feel that you may need a reasonable accommodation to fulfill the essential functions of the course that are listed in this syllabus, you are encouraged to contact Disability Services in the Academic Success Center at 404.364.8869 or disabilityservices@oglethorpe.edu.

Class Schedule

Changes may be necessary as the semester progresses, and will be announced in class.

Week 1	Jan 9 Introduction to course, review syllabus	Jan 11 Discussion.
Week 2 THEME: CHILDHOOD	Jan 16 Reading responses from Moodle Discuss craft material. Research assignment	Jan 18 In-class writing. HW: Reading handouts. Reading journal entry.
Week 3 THEME: TURBULENT SOUTH	Jan 23 Research assignment due. Discuss reading.	Jan 25 Assign community reflection paper AND Assign Critical reading paper: TWO LONG LEAD PROJECTS HW: Reading handouts. Reading journal entry.

Week 4 THEME: RACE	Jan 30 Discuss reading.	Feb 1 In-class writing HW: Reading handouts. Reading journal entry.
Week 5 THEME: SOUTH ON FILM	Feb 6 Assign Film paper In-class writing	Feb 8 Show film
Week 6	Feb 13 NO CLASS INSTRUCTOR AT CONFERENCE	Feb 15 NO CLASS INSTRUCTOR AT CONFERENCE
Week 7 THEME: FOODWA YS	Feb 20 Film paper due. Discussion Assign Essay #1	Feb 22 In-class writing HW: Reading handouts. Reading journal entry.
Week 8 THEME: SOUTH IN ART	Feb 27 Discussion	March 1 Essay #1 due Assign Critical Reading paper HW: Reading handouts. Reading journal entry.
Week 9	March 6 NO CLASS SPRING BREAK	March 8 NO CLASS SPRING BREAK
Week 10 THEME: MAPPING THE SOUTH	March 13 Discussion	March 15 In-class writing HW: Reading handouts. Reading journal entry
Week 11 THEME: LEAVING	March 20 Discussion	March 22 Critical reading paper due HW: Reading handouts. Reading journal entry.
Week 12 THEME: MUSIC	March 27 Discussion Assign Essay #2	March 29 In-class writing HW: Reading handouts. Reading journal entry.
Week 13 THEME: VOICES	April 3 Discussion. Guest speaker	April 5 Essay #2 due In-class writing.

		HW: Reading handouts. Reading journal entry.
Week 14 THEME: ARRIVING	April 10 Discussion	April 12 In-class writing HW: Reading handouts. Reading journal entry
Week 15 THEME: WILD CARD	April 17 Discussion	April 19 In-class writing HW: Reading handouts. Reading journal entry
Week 16 WRAP UP WEEK	April 24 Discussion	April 26 Community exploration paper due