

COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer II 2008
English 470: American Regional (Southern) Literature: 3 credit hours

MEETING LOCATION: Evans #417.

MEETING TIMES: M-F 10 am-12 pm

PROFESSOR: Dr. Linda Byrd Cook

OFFICE LOCATION: Evans 412

PROFESSOR CONTACT INFORMATION: Tel. # and Voice Mail: 294-1425
E-mail: LindaCook@shsu.edu
Eng. Dept. Fax #: 936/294-1408

OFFICE HOURS: M-Th: 9-10 am., 2-3 pm.
Others by appt. only

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will focus on various forms and types of American Regional Literature, particularly

Southern Literature. We will cover a variety of topics and figures as we read texts from the turn of the century, selections of mid-century modernist literature, and works of postmodernism from our contemporary South. Through the texts, we will examine the attitudes, assumptions, and values that have traditionally informed Southern literature and those that challenge "the canon." The readings of the course will be organized around five major themes: racial concerns, the old and new South, gender and women's issues, humor and the southern grotesque, and religion/loss of religion. Readings for the course will encompass various genres (short stories, drama, essays, novellas, novels), and represent such major literary figures as Kate Chopin, Zora Neale Hurston, William Faulkner, Carson McCullers, Flannery O'Connor, Tennessee Williams, Ralph Ellison, Alice Walker, and Cormac McCarthy, among others.

Class will be conducted primarily as a combination of lecture and class/group discussion. Students are expected to actively participate in class discussions and presentations.

A detailed course calendar, announcing class assignments, activities, due dates, and reminders, will be distributed separately. Dr. Cook reserves the right to make changes to this calendar at any time during the semester. These will be announced during class.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: ***Learn to *analyze and critically evaluate* ideas, arguments, and points of view
**Gain a broader understanding and appreciation of intellectual/cultural activity
(music, science, literature, etc.)
**Gain factual knowledge (terminology, classification, methods, trends)

REQUIRED TEXTS: *It is the student's responsibility to obtain the following texts at the beginning of the semester.**

Andrews, William L., ed. *The Literature of the American South: A Norton Anthology*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., Inc., 1998. ISBN: 0393316718.

McCullers, Carson. *The Ballad of the Sad Café and Other Stories*. 1936. New York: Bantam, 1983. ISBN: 0553272543.

McCarthy, Cormac. *The Road*. New York: New York: Vintage, 2006. ISBN: 9780307387899.
Packet for English 470W –Dr. Cook from Eagle Graphics (1312 Sam Houston Ave.)

ATTENDANCE POLICY: The university stresses the importance of punctuality and regular attendance. All students

are expected to attend every class, and attendance will definitely be taken into consideration in final computation of a student's course grade. Attendance will be recorded each class day, so a student must notify the professor of a **legitimate** absence BEFORE class time on that day (via e-mail or phone message). With appropriate **prior** notification of a student's absence, the professor will work with the student to make up any missed work. A student who misses more than THREE classes during the semester is in danger of **failing the course**.

GRADE DETERMINATION:	Paper	35%	GRADING SCALE: 90-100=A
	Daily Average	15%	80-89 =B
	Final Exam	35%	70-79 =C

- PAPER:** You will choose a selection by a writer studied in class (one read in this class OR another piece) and write a 5-7 page paper (text must be a minimum of 5 pp. excluding your Works Cited page) using at least four secondary (critical) sources and carefully following **MLA format** for spacing, margins, font, heading, parenthetical citations, and works cited page. Once you choose a writer and work, you should immediately notify Dr. Cook as no more than two students may choose the same author. I expect an insightful discussion of your topic, so choose something that interests you.
- TURN-IT-IN.COM:** PAPERS will be submitted to Dr. Cook in hard copy and also through this site.
- DAILY GRADES:** These grades may consist of quizzes (both announced and unannounced), questions over reading assignments and/or lecture notes, and credit for class preparation and participation. There will be **no make-up work** for daily grades. In the event of a student's absence on the day an announced daily grade is taken, a grade of zero will be recorded for that student. In the event of a prearranged absence when a pop quiz is given, the next quiz grade will be counted twice. Any student who has all his/her daily grades at the end of the semester may drop his/her lowest grade. No grade will be dropped for anyone who misses a daily grade. (See ATTENDANCE POLICY above.) A student may only miss 2 daily quizzes without being penalized.
- FINAL EXAM:** This comprehensive exam will consist of both subjective (short answer and essay) and objective (matching and multiple choice) questions. This exam will be taken during the scheduled final exam period. Students should bring to the exam a scan tron card, form #882, a number two pencil, and a large blue book/exam book.
- MICROTHEMES:** These will be assigned throughout the course. For each one, the professor will provide a prompt that relates to the assigned readings. After considering the prompt, each student will write in response a paper of no more than one typed page (double-spaced). These essays will be used to lead into discussion of the literature.
- WRITING-ENHANCED CREDIT:** This course is designated writing-enhanced. According to Sam Houston State University, you must take at least six courses that carry the designation writing-enhanced. The official definition of a writing-enhanced course is one in which 50% or more of the grade is based on written assignments. In this course, more than 50% of your semester grade is based directly on your writing.
- SHSU WRITING CENTER:** Sam Houston State University Writing Center, located in Farrington 111, is open Monday-Friday, 8 am. To 4 pm. Writing tutors will work with you one-on-one to help you generate a draft, organize a draft, or revise a draft of any assignment. You can just drop by to work with a tutor or call 936/294-3680 to schedule an appointment.
- ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:** All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.
- PLAGIARISM:** Plagiarism is defined as identifying someone else's words or ideas as if they were your own. This can range from submitting a paper written by someone else as if it were your own work, to copying words or sentences from someone else without putting them in quotation marks and properly citing the source. Plagiarism can also mean using someone else's ideas without acknowledging that person as the source. Plagiarism is considered a serious academic and legal offense in our culture. Penalties for plagiarism can range from a failing grade on the assignment to expulsion from the university. The course instructor can determine the penalties of failure for the assignment to failure of the course. The university disciplinary committee determines penalties of suspension or expulsion.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: Requests for accommodations must be initiated by the student. It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS: Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher learning excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM: Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT: Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the University.

1. **Cellular telephones and pagers** must be turned off before class begins.
2. Students are prohibited from using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking in inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction.
3. Absolutely **NO LAPTOP computers** will be allowed in class.
4. Students should bring appropriate materials to class every day. The appropriate text should be with you at **every** class meeting.
5. Drinks (nonalcoholic) may be consumed during class. Snacking is also allowed if it does not distract other students or the professor.
6. Except in the rare case of an absolute emergency, leaving the classroom during class time is considered rude and inappropriate and will not be tolerated. Only when the professor dismisses class should students leave the room. In a special situation where a student needs to leave early on a particular day, he/she should discuss the matter with the professor BEFORE class.
7. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with University policy.

