

LIT 4329: William Faulkner
Spring 2015 TR 1-2:15 PM
Theresa M. Towner

Course Description and Requirements

William Faulkner, the Mississippi-born writer who won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1950, wrote nineteen novels, well over a hundred short stories, some middling poetry, and a few fables which he illustrated himself. This course will introduce you to several of his most well-regarded novels and short stories. Throughout the semester, we will investigate recurrent patterns and themes in the fiction set largely in Faulkner's mythical Mississippi county, Yoknapatawpha.

Four assignments, each worth 25% of your course grade, will be turned in on time throughout the semester. These assignments include two exams, an oral report on and accompanying summary of a Faulkner novel not on the common reading list, and a final examination. Course requirements also include attendance and participation, and the quality of those two elements will decide cases of borderline grades. Please note that you must complete all of the required work for the course and that failure to do so will result in failure of the course.

The use of electronic devices in class is not permitted.

You cannot hope to pass the course if you do not attend it.

I do not accept late work, schedule makeup exams, or issue grades of Incomplete.

All cases of deliberate academic dishonesty will be referred to the University's judiciary officer for adjudication and punishment. Penalties for plagiarism include failure of the assignment in question, failure of the course, and expulsion from the University.

My office hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 10-11 AM and by appointment in JO 5.620. You may telephone me at 972-883-2031 or send e-mail to tmtowner@utdallas.edu.

Texts: Available at the UTD Book Store, Off-Campus Books, and commercially, the texts we will use are all Vintage International editions, which are **REQUIRED EDITIONS FOR THE COURSE**:

The Sound and the Fury

Sanctuary

Light in August

Absalom, Absalom!

Go Down, Moses

The Reivers

Collected Stories (just Vintage, not Vintage International; only one edition in print)

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Syllabus

Jan. 13: Course introduction; Faulkner as poet
Jan. 15: "Turnabout," "Ad Astra," and "All the Dead Pilots" (*Collected Stories*)

Jan. 20 and 22: *The Sound and the Fury*

Jan. 27 and 29: *The Sound and the Fury*

Feb. 3: First examination
Feb. 5: *Sanctuary*

Feb. 10: *Sanctuary*
Feb. 12: *Light in August*

Feb. 17 and 19: *Light in August*

Feb. 24: Second examination
Feb. 26: "That Evening Sun," "Barn Burning," and "Wash" (CS)

Mar. 3 and 5: *Absalom, Absalom!*

Mar. 10 and 12: *Absalom, Absalom!*

Mar. 17 and 19: Spring break

Mar. 24 and 26: *Go Down, Moses*

Mar. 31: *Go Down, Moses*
Apr. 2: *Go Down, Moses*

Apr. 7 and 9: Oral reports

Apr. 14 and 16: Oral reports

Apr. 21 and 23: *The Reivers*

Apr. 28: "Shingles for the Lord" and "Mule in the Yard" (CS)
Apr. 30: "Carcassonne" (CS); course review

May 7: **2-4 PM**: Final examination

LIT 4329: Faulkner Chronology

- 1897: William Cuthbert Falkner born 25 September in New Albany, Mississippi, first of four children to Maud and Murry Falkner
- 1902: Family moves to Oxford, Mississippi
- 1903: Meets Lida Estelle Oldham
- 1918: Estelle marries Cornell Franklin; William joins the Royal Air Force; adds u to last name; after RAF discharge, returns to Oxford in uniform, with fake limp
- 1919: First published poem, "L'Apres-Midi d'un Faune," in *The New Republic*; first published short story, "Landing in Luck," in *The Mississippian*
- 1921: Takes job as postmaster of Ole Miss post office
- 1924: *The Marble Faun* (poetry); resigns post office job
- 1926: *Soldiers' Pay* (novel)
- 1927: *Mosquitoes* (novel)
- 1929: *Sartoris* (novel); *The Sound and the Fury* (novel); Estelle Franklin divorced in April; Estelle and Faulkner marry in June
- 1930: *As I Lay Dying* (novel); buys Rowan Oak
- 1931: Daughter Alabama born prematurely, lives nine days; *Sanctuary* (novel); *These 13* (stories)
- 1932: *Light in August* (novel); Faulkner to MGM as screenwriter
- 1933: *A Green Bough* (poetry); daughter Jill born; Faulkner earns pilot's license
- 1934: *Doctor Martino and Other Stories*
- 1935: *Pylon* (novel); brother Dean killed in plane crash
- 1936: *Absalom, Absalom!* (novel)
- 1938: *The Unvanquished* (novel)
- 1939: *The Wild Palms/If I Forget Thee, Jerusalem* (novel)
- 1940: *The Hamlet* (novel)
- 1942: *Go Down, Moses* (novel)
- 1945: Writes "1699-1945 The Compsons" for Viking *Portable Faulkner*
- 1948: *Intruder in the Dust* (novel)
- 1949: *Knight's Gambit* (stories)
- 1950: *Collected Stories*; Faulkner awarded 1949 Nobel Prize for Literature, which he accepts on 10 December
- 1951: *Requiem for a Nun* (novel)
- 1954: *A Fable* (novel)
- 1957: Becomes writer-in-residence at University of Virginia; *The Town* (novel)
- 1959: *The Mansion* (novel)
- 1962: *The Reivers* (novel); Faulkner dies 6 July
- 1987: United States Post Office issues Faulkner stamp