Course Descriptions: Spring 2006

English 343 Great Plains Literature
Dr. Diane Quantic
Time: 12:30-1:45 TT
Place: LH 109

Course Description: This course includes historical, classic and contemporary works of Great Plains literature. We will focus on the ways writers have presented a particular place, the Great Plains, but we will also consider the works in the context of developments in American history and popular culture.

Class Procedures. Class time will include informal lecture, discussion and some video presentations. We will use Blackboard for online discussion, communication and assignments. Grades will be based on participation in Blackboard discussions, three short papers, with at least one including research and a final exam.

Texts:
ENGLISH 343: GREAT PLAINS LITERATURE

Spring 2006
Line # 06498
Tuesday-Thursday 12:30-1:45
LH 109
Email: diane.quantic@wichita.edu

Dr. Diane Quantic
Office: LH 623
Phone: 978-6764
Office hours: TTh 2:00-4:00

Course Description: This course includes historical, classic and contemporary works of Great Plains literature. We will focus on the ways writers have presented a particular place, the Great Plains, but we will also consider the works in the context of developments in American history and popular culture.

Class Procedures: Class time will include informal lecture, discussion and some video presentations. We will use Blackboard for online discussion, communication and assignments. Grades will be based on participation in Blackboard discussions, essays, attendance and a final essay/exam. Grades will be posted on Blackboard so that you can keep track of your progress in the class.

Grades: Assignments will be explained more fully in class and will be posted on Blackboard.
Your grade, a 100-point scale, will be based on:
--Discussion Board: 30 points.
   Based on a minimum of two substantial entries per week. You cannot get more than two points per week; therefore, to get the full 30 points, you must keep up with the discussion. Discussion will focus on the readings to be discussed in class. Points will be tallied and new Discussion Board topics will be posted Thursday evenings.
--Two-part "Impressions" essay: 15 points
--Research project: Proposal 10 points. Paper 25 points. This assignment will include library research.
--Final exam/essay: 10 points
Attendance: 10 points.
   0-1 absence=10 points; 2 absences=9 points; 3 absences=8 points; 4 absences=7 points; 5 absences=6 points; 6 or more absences=0 points.
Emergencies: If you have an emergency that prevents you from keeping up with class assignments, please contact the instructor.

Texts:
COURSE SCHEDULE
Subject to change by class consensus and with adequate notice.
GPR = A Great Plains Reader. The first page of an assignment is given. Read the entire selection.

Week One: Introduction to the Great Plains
Tues. Jan. 17: Course orientation: Syllabus
Great Plains definitions: In-class writing

Week Two: Learning to See the Great Plains
**DUE: First Essay: Plains Impressions**
GPR: Intro., 3; Momaday, 4; Eiseley, 37; Hasselstrom, 95; Heat-Moon, 100.
GPR: Butala, 24; O’Brien, 73; Johnsgard, 82; Stegner, 107.

Week Three: Natives: First Stories
Tues. Jan. 31. Myths and True Tales
GPR: Zitkala-Sa, 125; Standing Bear, 150; Zitkala-Sa, 166.
Thurs. Feb. 2. Pre-contact Indian Life
Deloria, Waterlily

Week Four: Natives (continued) and Newcomers' Stories
Tues. Feb. 7. Deloria, continued
Thurs. Feb. 9. Deloria continued,
GPR: Magoffin, 243; Gregg, 231.

Week Five: Exploration and Travel
GPR: Casteneda, 201; Lewis and Clark, 206; James, 218.
Thurs. Feb. 16. Travelers,
GPR: Irving, 251; Parkman, 258; Twain, 273.
Discussion Board: 10 points accumulated

Week Six: Pioneers
Tues. Feb. 21. Imagining the First Settlers
**DUE: Second Essay: Plains Impressions, Revised**
GPR: Fiction: Cooper, 287; Stead, 297.
Thurs. Feb. 23. Settling In
Cather, O Pioneers! “The Wild Land”

Week Seven: O Pioneers! continued
Tues. Feb. 28. Cather, O Pioneers! “Neighboring Fields,” and “Winter Memories”
Thurs. March 2: Cather, O Pioneers! “The White Mulberry Tree” and “Alexandra”

Week Eight: Settlers
Tues. March 7. Becoming Settled, continued
GPR: Rolvaag, 341; Ise, 368; Thompson, 376; Hogan, 307; Stafford, 374.
Intro. by Hasselstrom; Chapters I “Spring,” to VII, “The Niobrara Feud,” 120
**DUE: Research Proposal**

**Week Nine: Old Jules continued**

**Spring Break**

**Week Ten: Adapting to the Great Plains**
Tues. March 28. Film “The Dust Bowl”
Thurs. March 30. Hard Times
   **GPR** Hansen, 411; Ross, 426; Ward, 434; Hudson, 437.
   **Discussion Board: 20 points accumulated**

**Week Eleven: Creating Communities**
Tues. April 4. Family
   **GPR** Cather, 447; Weaver, 491
Thurs. April 6. Indian Perspectives
   **GPR** Luther Standing Bear, 504; Zitkala-Sa, 507

**Week Twelve: What IS A Great Plains Community?**
Tues. April 11. Small Towns: Fitting In
   **GPR** 529; White, 531; Hughes, 541; Woiwode, 560.
Thurs. April 13. Past and Present: Fitting In
   **GPR** Kroetsch, 621; Unger, 629.

**Week Thirteen: Looking for Some Place**
Tues. April 18. Wright Morris, photography and place; *The Home Place.*

**Week Fourteen: Modern Communities on the Great Plains**
Tues. April 25. Imagining Home and Away
   **GPR** Bultala, 641; Keillor, 650; Hasselstrom, 694
Thurs. April 27. More Homes on the Plains
   **GPR** Janovy, 659; Hansen, 669; Erdrich, 678.
   **DUE Research Paper/Project**

**Week Fifteen: The Future of the Great Plains**
Tues. May 2: Proposals for the Future
   **GPR** Norris, 705; Jackson, 712
Thurs. May 4: Review
   **Discussion Board: 30 points accumulated**
**Final Exam/Essay: Thursday, May 11: 10:00-11:50**