

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:

Willa Cather. O Pioneers!. 1913. Univ. of Nebraska Press, 1995 scholarly edition. Paperback.

Ella Deloria. 1988. Waterlily. Univ. of Nebraska Press, 1988. Paperback

Wright Morris. 1948. The Home Place. Univ. of Nebraska Press, rpt. 1999. Paperback

Mari Sandoz. 1936. Old Jules. Univ. of Nebraska Press, rpt. Paperback

Diane Quantic and P. Jane Hafen. A Great Plains Reader. Univ. of Nebraska Press, 2003. Paperback.

ENGLISH 343: GREAT PLAINS LITERATURE

Spring 2006
Line # 06498
Tuesday-Thursday 12:30-1:45
LH 109
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Dr. Diane Quantie
Office: LH 623
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Office hours: TTh 2:00-4:00

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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:

Willa Cather, *O Pioneers!* 1913. Univ. of Nebraska Press, 1995 Scholarly Edition. Pb.
Ella Deloria, *Waterlily*. 1988. Univ. of Nebraska Press, 1988. Pb.
Wright Morris. 1948. *The Home Place*. Univ. of Nebraska Press, 1999. Pb.
Mari Sandoz. 1936. *Old Jules*. Univ. of Nebraska Press, Pb.
Diane Quantie and P. Jane Hafen, *A Great Plains Reader*. Univ. of Nebraska Press, 2003.

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

Thurs. Jan. 19: Orientation: Film, "Last Stand of the Tallgrass Prairie"

Week Two: Learning to See the Great Plains

Tues. Jan. 24. Plains Nature: Impressions.

DUE: First Essay: Plains Impressions

GPR: Intro., 3; Momaday, 4; Eiseley, 37; Hasselstrom, 95; Heat-Moon, 100.

Thurs. Jan. 26. Plains Nature: History.

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

Tues. Feb. 14. Explorers

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 Rølvaag, 341; Ise, 368; Thompson, 376; Hogan, 307; Stafford, 374.

Thurs. March 9. Settlers and Immigrants: Sandoz, *Old Jules*
Intro. by Hasselstrom; Chapters I "Spring," to VII, "The Niobrara Feud," 120
DUE: Research Proposal

Week Nine: *Old Jules* continued

Tues. March 14. *Old Jules* Chapters VIII, "Rain Makers and a Hunt to the Big Horns,"
148 through XIV, "The Kinkaiders Comes," 268
Thurs. March 16. *Old Jules*, Chapters XV, "Land Frauds," 290; to the end, "Winter"

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*.
Thurs. April 20. Morris, *The Home Place*, continued.

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