

Georgia State University
English 8894: Topics in 20th-Century Literature and Culture
Southwestern American Literature
Fall 2010

Prof. Audrey Goodman
906 General Classroom Building
Class meetings: MW 3-4:15 709 GCB
Office hours: MW 1:30-2:30
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Course Description

This course will introduce students to the literature and culture of the greater American Southwest by exploring foundational primary texts, key historical studies, and a variety of theoretical approaches, including ethnography, ecocriticism, Chicano studies, and Native American studies. The seminar will combine lecture and discussion to provide students with in-depth background knowledge and the opportunity to debate issues of interpretation. Students will build on their weekly response papers to develop two critical research essays on topics of their choosing and learn to craft a paper proposal suitable for conference submission.

Required Texts (Available at GSU Bookstore)

Willa Cather, *Death Comes for the Archbishop* (Virago Modern Classics, 1844083721)
Frank Waters, *The Man Who Killed the Deer* (Swallow/Ohio UP, 0804001944)
Leslie Silko, *Ceremony* (Penguin, 0143104918)
Ana Castillo, *So Far from God* (Norton, 0393326934)
Gary Paul Nabhan, *The Desert Smells Like Rain* (U of AZ Press, 0-816522499)
Ofelia Zepeda, *Ocean Power* (University of Arizona Press, 0-8165-1541-7)
Gloria Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera* (Aunt Lute Books, 1879960745)
Cormac McCarthy, *The Crossing* (Vintage, 0679760849)
Sandra Cisneros, *Woman Hollering Creek* (Vintage, 0679738568)
Luis Urrea, *The Hummingbird's Daughter* (Back Bay Books, 0316154520)

Suggested Texts

Ellen Meloy, *The Last Cheater's Waltz* (U of AZ Press, 081652153)
Edward Abbey, *Desert Solitaire* (Touchstone, 0671695886)

E-reserve Reading List

William Kittredge, *Southwestern Homelands*: map, Preface, Chapters 3-4
Sean Teuton, *Red Land, Red Power*: Chapter 3
Jake Kosek, *Understories*: Introduction, Chapter 1
SueEllen Campbell, "Magpie," in *Coyote in the Maze*
Krista Comer, *Landscapes of the New West*: Chapter 1
José David Saldívar, *Border Matters*: Chapter 1

Course Requirements

1. Response papers to the week's reading, due on Wednesday in class. These 2-page papers will be the foundation for seminar discussion and may be developed further in your critical essays. These six papers will count for 30% of your final grade.
2. Two critical research essays, 10 pages each, on a topic developed from one of your response papers. They will each count for 20% of your final grade.
3. One group presentation. During the second half of the course, you will work with a small group of students to research a common topic and present your findings to the class. You may also use this research for your second essay and for your paper proposal; the presentation will count for 10% of your final grade.
4. One paper proposal, no more than one page, that describes the subject and critical approach of a paper you could deliver at an academic conference. 20%.

Attendance and Other Policies

Attendance. You are expected to come to each seminar prepared to take notes on the lecture or to participate in the day's discussion. If you need to miss class for any reason, please let me know via e-mail in advance. More than four unexplained absences during the semester will lower your final course grade.

Late Work. Unless we make arrangements in advance, late work will not be accepted for credit in this course.

Academic Honesty. All work you submit in this course should be your own. Please consult GSU's Policy on Academic Honesty, Section 409 of the Course Catalog, for University regulations on the definition and consequences of plagiarism.

Student Course Evaluation. Your constructive assessment of this course plays an indispensable role in shaping education at Georgia State. Upon completing the course, please take time to fill out the online course evaluation.

Disability Accommodations. Students who wish to request accommodation for a disability may do so by registering with the Office of Disability Services. Students may only be accommodated upon issuance by the Office of Disability Services of a signed Accommodation Plan and are responsible for providing a copy of that plan to instructors of all classes in which an accommodation is sought.

Syllabus. Please note that the course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.

Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

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|--------|------------------------|
| Aug 23 | Introduction to course |
| Aug 25 | Reading: Kittredge |

- Aug 30 Reading: *Death Comes for the Archbishop*
Lecture: Modernism and the Romance of Region
- Sept 1 Discussion: Willa Cather
Reading Response 1 due
- Sept 6 Labor Day – no class
- Sept 8 Reading: Kosek
- Sept 13 Reading: *The Man Who Killed the Deer*; Lynch, “Towards a Symbiosis”
Lecture: Westerns and Southwesterns
- Sept 15 Discussion: Frank Waters
Reading Response 2 due
- Sept 20 Reading: *Ceremony* (first half)
Lecture: The Native American Renaissance
- Sept 22 Reading and Discussion: Teuton
Reading Response 3 due
- Sept 27 Reading: *Ceremony* (conclusion)
Discussion: Silko
- Sept 30 Essay workshop
- Oct 4 Reading: *Ocean Power*; *The Desert Smells like Rain* (selections)
Lecture: Ethnopoetics
- Oct 6 Discussion: Zepeda and Nabhan
Essay 1 due
- Oct 11 Reading: *So Far From God*
Lecture: The Nuclear Southwest
- Oct 13 Discussion: Castillo
Reading Response 4 due
- Oct 18 Reading: Comer
Discussion: Feminism and Regionalism
- Oct 20 **Reading and research day – no class**
- Oct 25 Group presentations
- Oct 27 Group presentations
- Nov 1 Reading: *The Crossing*, Part I
Lecture: Westerns and Anti-Westerns
- Nov 3 Discussion: *The Crossing*
Reading Response 5 due

- Nov 8 Reading: *Borderlands/La Frontera* (selections); Saldívar;
 Woman Hollering Creek (selections)
 Lecture: Theorizing the Border
- Nov 10 Discussion: Borderlands writing
- Nov 15 Essay workshop
- Nov 17 **Essay 2 due**

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

- Nov 29 Reading: *The Hummingbird's Daughter*
 Lecture: Magical Realism
- Dec 1 Discussion: *The Hummingbird's Daughter*
 Reading Response 6 due
- Dec 6 Presentation of Paper Proposals
 Paper Proposals due