

English 342. 34820. Life & Lit of SW. Don Graham. Spring 2010. 12:30-2
TT Parlin 201. Don Graham. Office: Calhoun 306. Office hrs: 2-3 TT.
Teaching Assistant: Colleen Eils. Office hrs: TBA.

This is a course in regional literature, specifically writing set in Texas and written mostly but not exclusively by Texans. I divide the state into its own regions: the South (East Texas), the West (the arid lands), the Border (El Paso to Brownsville), and Town and City (where most people in Texas live). We will read stories, essays, parts of autobiographies and memoirs, and cuttings from novels by both major figures and relative unknowns. We will also read full-length works by Larry McMurtry, Cormac McCarthy, Billy Lee Brammer, and Adam Braver. What will emerge, I believe, is a full, rich portrait of Texas through literature and film. The course should be equally valuable to those not born and raised in Texas as well as those who have never lived anywhere else. We will also see three films: Hud, Giant, and The Three Burials of Melquiadas Estrada.

Texts: Don Graham (ed.), Lone Star Literature: A Texas Anthology; Larry McMurtry, Horseman, Pass By; Cormac McCarthy, All the Pretty Horses; Billy Lee Brammer, The Gay Place; Adam Braver, November 22, 1963; Cormac McCarthy, No Country for Old Men

Note: All films or film footage will be subject to examinations the same as written texts. All handouts are considered texts as well and therefore subject to exam questions.

Requirements: Two exams (50% and 29%) one essay (11 %) class participation including attendance (10%). Grades will be based on an A-F system, no pluses & minuses.

Prerequisites: Nine semester hours of course work in English or Rhetoric & Writing.

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodation from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259.

Syllabus

January

19 T: Intro.

21 Th: The Invention of SW Lit: Lecture

26 T: Katherine Anne Porter, "The Grave," p. 177; Dorothy Scarborough, from The Wind, 90; Gertrude Beasley, from My First Thirty Years, p. 115;

28 Th: Bill Brett, "The Way It Was—Southeast Texas, 1915," p. 232; George Sessions Perry, "Hold Autumn in Your Hand," p. 185; William A. Owens, "Hangerman John," p. 196; Robert A. Caro, "The Sad Irons," p. 235.

February

2 T: Larry McMurtry, Horseman, Pass By (pages assigned in class)

4 Th: McMurtry cont.

9 T: McMurtry cont.

11 Th: Hud J. Frank Dobie, "Bogged Shadows," p. 126; A. C. Greene, "The Girl at Cabe Ranch," p. 132

16 T: Hud cont. Andy Adams, "A Dry Drive," p. 25; Dave Hickey, "I'm Bound to Follow the Longhorn Cows," p. 160

18 Th: McMurtry cont.

23 T: Cormac McCarthy, All the Pretty Horses, Part 1

25 Th: McCarthy, part II

March

2 T: McCarthy, part III

4 Th: McCarthy, part IV

9 T: **Exam**

11 Th: Billy Lee Brammer, The Gay Place; **Essay Assignment: Giant**

16 T: **Spring Break**

18 Th: **Spring Break**

- 23 T: Brammer cont.
 25 Th: Brammer cont. Don Graham & Betsy Berry, "Giant Country" (handout); Don Graham, "Ghosts and Empty Sockets" (handout)

30 T: Brammer cont.

April

- 1 Th: Adam Braver, November 22, 1963 **Essay due**
- 6 T: Braver cont. Edwin Shrake, from Strange Peaches, p. 428; Gary Cartwright, "Who Was Jack Ruby?"; Joe Bob Briggs, "How I Solved the Kennedy Assassination," p. 469.
- 8 Th: Braver cont.
- 13 T: The Three Burials of Melquiadas Estrada John Houghton Allen, from Southwest, p. 263; James Crumley, "Whores," p. 361;
- 15 Th: Three Burials cont. Tomas Rivera, "The Portrait," p. 350; Larry McMurtry, from The Last Picture Show, p. 377.
- 20 T: Cormac McCarthy, No Country for Old Men
- 22 Th: McCarthy cont. Peter LaSalle, "A Guide to Some Small Border Airports," p. 388. ; Benjamin Alire Saenz, "Exile," p. 278.
- 27 T: McCarthy cont.
- 29 Th: Lecture on Texas Films

May

- 4 T: Wrap-up
 6 Th: **Exam**

The instructor retains the right to vary the syllabus for this class.