

Department of English Course Description Packet

Graduate Courses, January Intersession 2017

Updated: 10-17-2016

ENGL 5723 / ENGL 6733, The Pop South

Teacher: L. Hinrichsen

Textbooks Required:

No books required. Films and television shows will be screened in class and required readings will be provided on Blackboard.

Description:

In this course we will survey how the U.S. South has been imagined and invented through popular culture. Through examining films, television, magazines, graphic novels, music, and other cultural artifacts from the early twentieth century to more recent postmodern examples—including advertisements, digital texts, architecture, products and industries, tours and re-enactments, monuments and memorials, and foodways—we will trace how popular representations of “the South” attest to the ways in which the region is an inherently complicated space. As we discuss the relationship between the U.S. South, visual culture, and print media, we will theorize about how popular culture speaks to national and transnational transformations, including changing modes of conceptualizing race, class, gender, and regional identity.

Rather than view popular culture as a “bad object” of analysis associated with commercialism, consumerism, and a lack of authenticity, or as representative of “low” culture unworthy of scholarly attention, we will take it (mostly) seriously. In seeing popular culture as connected to intimacy and domesticity, individual and collective identity, memory, and the everyday, we will investigate how and why it traffics in fantasies about gender, sex, race, class, and region, and we will interrogate the way that pop representation defines, enacts, and sometimes resists disciplinary rubrics of the norms that fundamentally shape everyday life.

Expect a mix of cutting-edge theory combined with inventive, diverse primary “texts” as we interrogate the meaning and significance of pop culture as it pertains to the U.S. South.

MA advisory codes:

Generalist – **G** (Modern American Lit.)

Specialist – **2** (Cultural Studies)

Specialist – **3** (Ethnic and Regional)

Specialist – **4** (Gender and Sexuality)

Specialist – 6 (Modern American Lit.)

ENGL 5933 / ENGL 6933, Dystopian Film

Teacher: K. Booker

Textbooks Required:

None.

Description: This course focuses on the genre of dystopian film, but will include a brief introduction to the dystopian genre as a whole. It will include a historical survey of the development of the genre and a discussion of the historical events that have influenced this development. Consideration will be given to the relationship between utopian and dystopia.

Essays, exams, and other major requirements for graduate students at the 5000 level: Extensive brief written discussions of specific films, to be shared with the entire class. One more extended discussion of a specific film, to be selected by the student in consultation with the instructor. Report to the class on one dystopian novel, selected by the student in consultation with the instructor.

Special requirements for seminar students at the 6000 level: Extensive brief written discussions of specific films, to be shared with the entire class. One more extended discussion of a specific film, to be selected by the student in consultation with the instructor. Report to the class on one critical/theoretical text on dystopia, selected by the student in consultation with the instructor.

MA advisory codes:

Generalist – G (Modern American Lit.)

Specialist – 2 (Cultural Studies)

Specialist – 6 (Modern American Lit.)

ENGL 6113 / WLIT 603V, Seminar in Medieval Literature and Culture: Medieval Prison Literature

Teacher: W. Quinn

Textbooks Required:

Any edition of Chaucer's *Complete Works* or

<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=cme;idno=ChaucerBo>

The Kingis Quair and Other Prison Poems (TEAMS, 2005), ed. by Linne R. Mooney and Mary-Jo Arn or

http://d.lib.rochester.edu/search/robbins/prison?filters=sm_cck_field_text_project%3A%22TEAMS+Middle+English+Text%22

Thomas Usk's *The Testament of Love* (TEAMS, 1998), ed. by R. Allen Shoaf or <http://d.lib.rochester.edu/teams/publication/mooney-and-arn-kingis-quair-and-other-prison-poems>

Description: This course will focus on a theme recurrently addressed by late medieval narratives—imprisonment (physical, psychological, philosophical). In chronological order we will read: Chaucer's *Boece*, James I of Scotland, *The Kingis Quair*, Charles d'Orleans' *Fortunes Stabilnes*, George Ashby's *Complaint of a Prisoner in the Fleet 1463*, Anon. *Complaint of a Prisoner against Fortune*, Anon. *The Lufaris Complaynt*, Thomas Usk, *The Testament of Love*, and excerpts from Thomas Malory's *Le Morte d'Arthur* (pdf. provided). Several classes will be “flipped” with critical commentary assigned as homework so we can collectively read the primary texts in class.

Special requirements for seminar students at the 6000 level: one “conference quality” research essay (7-10 pages) focusing on imprisonment but not necessarily on a medieval text; perfect attendance and vigorous participation.

MA advisory codes:

Generalist – **A** (Medieval)

Generalist – **H** (World Lit.)

Specialist – **5** (Medieval)

The advisory codes indicate what course distribution requirement will be satisfied by the designated listing. If more than one code is listed in the description for a particular class, a student may satisfy only one of those distribution requirements with that class, unless the code is T, for Theory.

For M.A. Students with the Generalist Concentration

Generalist **A:** satisfies **Medieval** Literature and Culture requirement.

Generalist **B:** satisfies **Renaissance** Literature and Culture requirement.

Generalist **C:** satisfies **Restoration and 18th-century** Literature and Culture requirement.

Generalist **D:** satisfies **19th-century British** Literature and Culture requirement.

Generalist **E:** satisfies **British** Literature and Culture **After 1900** requirement.

Generalist **F:** satisfies **American** Literature and Culture **Before 1900** requirement.

Generalist **G:** satisfies **American** Literature and Culture **After 1900** requirement.

Generalist **H:** satisfies **World** Literature and Culture Written in English requirement.

For M.A. Students with the Specialist Concentration

Specialist **1:** satisfies **Comparative** Literature requirement.

Specialist **2:** satisfies **Cultural** Studies requirement.

Specialist **3:** satisfies **Ethnic and Regional** Literatures requirement.

Specialist **4:** satisfies **Gender and Sexuality** requirement.

Specialist **5**: satisfies **Medieval** Literature requirement.

Specialist **6**: satisfies **Modern American** Literature requirement.

Specialist **7**: satisfies **Rhetoric, Composition, and Literacy** requirement.

For All M.A. Students

(T): satisfies **Theory** requirement.

(A course can satisfy the theory requirement while also satisfying one of the other requirements in the lists above.)