ENGL 5723/6733 Southern Gothic

Teacher: L. Hinrichsen

Required Texts:
Edgar Allan Poe, *The Gold-Bug and Other Tales* (Dover; 978-0486268750)
Flannery O’Connor, *A Good Man is Hard to Find and Other Stories* (Harcourt Brace; 978-0156364652)
Additional texts will be posted on Blackboard.

Description: As Teresa Goddu, Joan Dayan, and Harry Levin have noted, the gothic, as an elastic concept, plays a special role in representing the historically oppositional identity of the U.S. South, framing it as a dark other, a spatial repository for cultural contradictions that must be disavowed to enable a national mythology of innocence. This course will explore southern gothic fiction, poetry and cinema from the nineteenth-century to the present, investigating the cultural preoccupations, anxieties and political fantasies registered in this literary mode.

Course Requirements:
Daily quizzes, response papers, course discussion, final exam.