

Department of English Course Description Packet

Undergraduate Courses, January Intersession 2017

Updated: 10-12-2016

ENGL 3863 / ENGL 4863 / ENGL 4933, 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.

ENGL 4933, Studies in Popular Culture and Popular Genres: 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 undergraduates: Extensive brief written discussions of specific films, to be shared with the entire class. Final exam.