

ENGL 4790/4890/6640: Films about the South
Fall 2006—Tentative Syllabus

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English 4790/4890/6640 for fall 2006 will consider a series of films (many of them iconic) about the American South. Our objective will be to study and appreciate (or deprecate) these films as examples of cinema, explore their perspectives on the history and culture of the American South, and study their sources, especially literary sources. We will view at least one film a week. The class will meet on Tuesday and Thursday at 2:00 PM in 100A Old College. There will be a required viewing session each Monday, beginning at 3:35 in 250 SLC.

Students in this class should have considerable experience in reading literature. We will cover fifteen films and at least 5 novels, two plays, and assorted articles, stories, and other writings. Readings not on this syllabus will be announced and placed on reserve and/or on the class web site. Writing and WebCT will be important components of the course.

This syllabus describes a general plan for the course. As changes in the plan become necessary, I'll announce them in class and on the web site.

August 17	First class day (Thurs)	
Aug 22-24	<i>Gone with the Wind</i> (1939)	
Aug 29 –31	<i>Jezebel</i> (1938)	
Sept. 5-7	<i>The Little Foxes</i> (1941?)	Labor Day: Sept. 4*
Sept. 12-14	<i>Intruder in the Dust</i> (1949)	
Sept. 19-21	<i>The Long Hot Summer</i> (1955)	Paper 1: Sept. 22
Sept. 26-28	<i>All the King's Men</i> (2006)	
Oct. 3-5	<i>Cat on a Hot Tin Roof</i> (1962)	
Oct. 10-12	<i>Nashville</i> (1977).	Midpoint: Oct. 13.
Oct. 17-19	<i>Wise Blood</i> (1979)	
Oct. 24	<i>4 Little Girls</i> (1997).	Paper 2: Oct. 25 Fall break: Oct. 26-27
Oct. 31-Nov.	<i>The Apostle</i> (1997)	
Nov. 7-9	<i>Deliverance</i> (1972)	
Nov. 14-16	<i>Big Fish</i> (2003)	
Nov. 22	<i>O Brother, Where Art Thou?</i> (2000)	Thanksgiving: Nov. 25-27
Nov. 27-30	<i>Junebug</i> (2004).	Paper 3: Dec. 1
Dec. 7	Last class day	

* The alternative viewing session for Labor Day will be at 3:35 PM on Wednesday, August 30, in 250 SLC. Students should attend this session or view the film on their own. The library will have a copy.

Readings (available in the campus bookstore)

Lillian Hellman, *The Little Foxes*
 William Faulkner, *Intruder in the Dust*
 Robert Penn Warren, *All the King's Men*
 Tennessee Williams, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*
 Flannery O'Connor, *Wise Blood*
 James Dickey, *Deliverance*
 Daniel, Wallace, *Big Fish: A Novel of Mythic Proportions*

Class format: The class will consist of informal lectures and discussions. Sometimes we will break into smaller groups, and sometimes we will discuss as an entire class. You should feel free to ask questions (as long as they are relevant) of me and of others in the class at any time during lectures and discussions. As we exchange ideas, it will be important to respect the ideas of others, especially when they differ from your own, and it will be important for you to present your own ideas with clarity and with reasonable evidence in their support. The success of this class depends on your careful attention to the films and readings and on your intensive engagement and participation.

Primary viewing sessions each Monday, 3:35, 250 SLC: I will show the film we are discussing each week during the Monday viewing session. This viewing session is required. If you miss this session, you are responsible for seeing the film on your own. (Most if not all of the films are available in the library). It is very important that you watch each film we discuss before Tuesday's class. Each week I will make available in the main library A/V room an optional film that you may if you choose view on your own. This film will always relate in some way to the main film under discussion, and I will refer to it in class.

Attendance: Everyone should attend all class meetings. **You are responsible for all class assignments, lectures, and discussions whether or not you are present on a particular day.**

Hours: I don't have regular office hours because my schedule changes frequently. If you wish to meet with me, please make an appointment. It will be easy for us to find a time to meet. For an appointment write me at hruppers@uga.edu or call 2-1561 and tell the person who answers that you want to make an appointment. You should feel free to e-mail me at any time with questions or concerns: I'll give you quick answers. Questions of general interest to the class should be placed on the "General" topics area of the WebCT discussion list. Feel free to drop by my office unannounced: if I'm free I'll be glad to talk with you.

WebCT: I will use a WebCT site to post class announcements and news, articles, and other information and materials. You can use the bulletin board to exchange information and comments or to collaborate in planning discussions. You can login, using your UGA ID and password, at <https://webct.uga.edu/>. Because I'll use WebCT to post information about the course, you should check it often.

Class Assignments

Opinion statements: Prior to the start of each Tuesday class, you should post in the appropriate topic area in the discussion section of the web site a response statement addressing some aspect of the week's film. They should be 250 to 300 words (equivalent to one typed page) and written in a clean, correct prose style that you're comfortable with others in the class reading. Your statements will become the basis for class discussions. I will read your statements but will not grade them. Statements that are too short, sloppy, or superficial will not count. I encourage everyone in the class to read the opinion statements that are posted. The opinion papers count 10% of the grade.

For students in 4790/4890:

You will submit three critical paper, some 1500 words in length, at points during the term. They will count 60% of your grade. I'll give you more information on this paper soon.

The final examination counts 20% of your grade. It will test your knowledge of films we watch and class lectures and discussions. I don't give exams ahead of time, unless you find that on a given final examination day you have three exams scheduled.

Participation will count 20% of your grade. Participation comes in many forms, including class and WebCT discussion, attendance, and so on.

For students in 6640: See separate information sheet.

Submission of papers: All papers should be submitted electronically, as an e-mail attachment or via the WebCT web site. I can handle Word, WordPerfect, and RTF formats.

Standards: I grade papers both on the quality of the content and the writing. My standards are high, and I am confident you will meet them.

Late papers: I don't like them. You must turn your papers and other assignments in on time—this means **submitted and received** by midnight of the day they are due. Do not submit paper copies. If you know a problem may prevent you from turning your paper in by the deadline, discuss it with me ahead of time. It will be my decision as to whether to accept a late paper and as to whether to give an accepted late paper full or partial credit.

Final Exam: Tue, Dec 12, 2006, 3:30 - 6:30 pm. I will not give early final examinations. You must take the final exam at the scheduled time.

Academic Honesty: All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." Students are responsible for informing themselves about those

standards before performing any academic work. I strongly support the University's policy on Academic Honesty and the Honor Code.

The link to more detailed information about academic honesty can be found at <http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/acadhon.htm>.

You should expect from this course enhanced appreciation and understanding of . . .

. . . some important or at least interesting films and their sources, especially literary sources.

. . . how the American South and its history and culture are portrayed in literature and film, and how the South sometimes serves as a metaphor for issues extending well beyond regional boundaries.

. . . how race, class, gender, history, economics, religion, ideology, and other aspects, often less tangible and more abstract, of the human condition provide the substance of literature and film.

I am looking forward to getting to know all of you in the class. Choosing the films we are going to discuss has been difficult. Many good ones are left out. If you want to know why a particular film is missing, I'll be glad to explain. If you have substitute films to suggest (or general suggestions about the class), please let me have your thoughts. The opportunity to teach this course on films about the American South is an exciting one, and I want and expect to learn a great deal in the coming weeks.

Primary Viewing Session

Aug. 21 *Gone with the Wind* (1939)
 Aug. 28 *Jezebel* (1938)
 Aug 30 *The Little Foxes* (1941)*
 Sept. 4 Labor Day: no viewing session
 Sept 11 *Intruder in the Dust* (1949)
 Sept 18 *The Long Hot Summer* (1958)
 Sept 25 *All the King's Men* (2006)
 Oct 2 *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (1958)
 Oct 9 *Nashville* (1975)
 Oct 16 *Wise Blood* (1979)
 Oct. 23 *4 Little Girls* (1997)
 Oct 30 *The Apostle* (1997)
 Nov 6 *Deliverance* (1972)
 Nov 13 *Big Fish* (2003)
 Nov 20 *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* (2000)
 Nov 27 *Junebug* (2005)
 Dec. 4 *Mystery Train* (1989)

Optional Film

Hush, Hush Sweet Charlotte (1964)
The Southerner (1945)
 NA
To Kill a Mockingbird (1962)
Tomorrow (1972)
God's Little Acre (1958)
All the King's Men (1947)
Baby Doll (1956)
Cookie's Fortune (1999)
Searching for the Wrong-Eyed Jesus (2005)
In the Heat of the Night (1967)
Thunder Road (1958)
Wild River (1960)
Undertow (2004)
 Thanksgiving
Steel Magnolias (1989)

* This viewing session substitutes for the session that will not be held on Labor Day.

English 6640: Supplementary Information

I'll assign you extra reading, ask you to report to the class on a subject related to the topic of the course (your written report will be your first paper), and on occasion ask you to lead small-group or class discussions. Your second paper will be some 5000 words in length and will present a critical treatment of a topic you propose using current research and scholarship. I will occasionally meet with you individually and as a group to discuss these assignments.