

Instructor: Bülgözdi Imola bulgozdi.imola@gmail.com	Office hours: Tue 16 - 17 and Wed 17-18 Rm: 116/1
Changing Perspectives on Race and Gender in Southern Culture (BTP2NA_T_18)	MA 1 st and 2 nd year
Wed 18-19.40	Rm: 109

“‘Classic’ – a book which people praise and don’t read.”

Mark Twain

Description: The aim of this course is to provide an overview of the representations of the American South through significant literary texts and films that give insight into region-specific problems, like racism, the KKK, the influence of the Civil War and the plantation myth. These works will be used to explore the construction of Southern regional identity, and the geographical variety within the region, presenting both historical and social change taking place during the 20th century. This will be accomplished through the discussion of classics that have shaped the image of the South, like the first feature film, *Birth of a Nation* (1915) and Faulkner’s short stories, and contemporary representations, like Jesmyn Ward’s 2011 novel *Salvage the Bones*, which describes the aftermath of hurricane Katrina, and the movie *12 Years a Slave*, which won the Academy Award for Best Picture in 2013.

Evaluation:

- end-term paper (25%)
- take-home essay of 2300 - 2500 words (35%) DEADLINE TO BE DISCUSSED
- 10-minute oral presentation on a chosen topic (20%)
- 10-minute review of a historical/iconic representation of the South (10%)
(*Birth of a Nation*, *Gone with the Wind*, *Tobacco Road*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Color Purple*)
- active classroom participation (10%).

More than 3 absences will result in no mark, just like plagiarism!

Students should be advised that the quality of their written and spoken linguistic performance will count significantly toward their final mark.

Under the current regulations, the course is planned to be a face-to-face, classroom-based course, HOWEVER, if due to the pandemic we have to switch to remote teaching, PLEASE be prepared to use the University of Debrecen E-Learning system at elearning.unideb.hu. In case of such a switch, the course evaluation methods (e.g., for class participation) and grading rules may be subject to change. You will be notified of these changes by the instructor if needed.

It is our shared responsibility to observe effective hygiene rules and follow the relevant government, university and faculty regulations regarding the pandemic. If you become ill or experience any symptoms, please stay home to protect others from infection.

Schedule

- Sep 8 Orientation: Regionalism and regional identity
Campbell and Kean. "Chapter 5: Approaches to Regionalism – The West and the South."
- Sep 15 North and South – the slave narrative
McQueen, Steve. *12 Years a Slave* (2013)
Himes, Joseph S. Introduction: Background of Recent Changes in the South.
Review of *Birth of a Nation*
- Sep 22 The legacy of the Civil War
Minghella, Anthony. *Cold Mountain* (2003)
Mason, Bobbie A. "Shiloh"
Review of *Gone with the Wind*
- Sep 29 The Southern Renaissance
Faulkner, William. "Barn Burning" and "That Evening Sun"
- Oct 6 The myth of Southern Womanhood
Faulkner, William. "Wash" and "Was"
Coppola, Sofia. *The Beguiled*
Baym, Nina. "The Myth of the Myth of Southern Womanhood"
- Oct 13 "White trash"
Allison, Dorothy, *Bastard out of Carolina*
Vance, J.D. *Hillbilly Elegy*, Introduction and Chapter 1, pp. 1-22.
Review of *Tobacco Road*
- Oct 20 Race and the psychology of prejudice
McCullers, Carson. "Untitled Piece"
O'Connor, Flannery. "The Artificial Nigger"
Review of *To Kill a Mockingbird*
- Oct 29 Family – the lynchpin of Southern society
Allison, Dorothy. "Meanest Woman Ever Left Tennessee."
Wilson, Kevin. "Grand Stand-in."
- Nov 3 *Consultation week*
- Nov 10 Stepping over the color line
Walker, Alice. "How Did I Get Away with Killing One of the Biggest Lawyers in the State? It Was Easy" and "The Child Who Favored Daughter."
Hall, Stuart. "The Question of Cultural Identity."
Review of *The Color Purple*
- Nov 17 The South in the 21st century
Ward, Jesmyn. *Salvage the Bones*
Anderson, Jon. "5. Taking and Making Place: The Stuff of Power"

Nov 24	Presentation class
Dec 1	Presentation class
Dec 8	<u>End-term paper</u> Evaluation in exam period

Set texts (will be available in Google Classroom and at least one copy of the novels is also available in the library)

- Allison, Dorothy. *Bastard out of Carolina*. Penguin Books, 2012.
- . "Meanest Woman Ever Left Tennessee." *Trash*. New York: Plume, 2002.
- Faulkner, William. "Was," "Wash," "Barn Burning," "That Evening Sun." *Collected Short Stories of William Faulkner*. New York: Vintage Books, 1995.
- Mason, Bobbie A. "Shiloh." *Shiloh and Other Stories*. New York: Modern Library, 2001.
- McCullers, Carson. "Untitled Piece." *Collected Stories*. Boston & New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1998.
- O'Connor, Flannery. "The Artificial Nigger" *The Complete Stories of Flannery O'Connor*. London: Faber & Faber, 1990.
- Vance, J.D. *Hillbilly Elegy – A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis*. London: William Collins, 2017.
- Walker, Alice. "The Child Who Favored Daughter." *In Love and Trouble*. London: The Women's Press, 1989.
- Walker, Alice. "How Did I Get Away with Killing One of the Biggest Lawyers in the State? It Was Easy." *You Can't Keep a Good Woman Down*. London: The Women's Press, 1992.
- Ward, Jesmyn. *Salvage the Bones*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2011.
- Wilson, Kevin. "Grand Stand-in." *Tunneling to the Center of the Earth*. New York: HarperCollins, 2009.

Films:

- Coppola, Sofia. *The Beguiled* (2017)
- McQueen, Steve. *12 Years a Slave* (2013)
- Minghella, Anthony. *Cold Mountain* (2003)

Theoretical set texts

- Anderson, Jon. "5. Taking and Making Place: The Stuff of Power." *Understanding Cultural Geography: Places and Traces*. New York: Routledge, 2015, pp. 75-92.
- Baym, Nina. "The Myth of the Myth of Southern Womanhood." *Feminism and American Literary History*. New Jersey: Rutgers UP, 1992, pp. 181-96.
- Campbell, Neil, and Alasdair Kean. "Chapter 5: Approaches to Regionalism – The West and the South." *American Cultural Studies – An Introduction to American Culture*. London & New York: Routledge, 1997, pp. 135-55.
- Himes, Joseph S. Introduction: Background of Recent Changes in the South. *The South Moves into Its Future: Studies in the Analysis and Prediction of Social Change*. Ed. Joseph S. Himes. Tuscaloosa: U of Alabama P, 1991, pp. 1-9

Hall, Stuart. "The Question of Cultural Identity." *Modernity and Its Futures*. Eds. Stuart Hall, David Held, Tony McGrew. Cambridge: Polity Press, 1996, pp. 273-316.

Recommended readings

Cobb, James C. *Away Down South – A History of Southern Identity*. Oxford & New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Duvall, John N. *Race and White Identity in Southern Fiction from Faulkner to Morrison*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008.

McPherson, Tara. *Reconstructing Dixie: Race, Gender, and Nostalgia in the Imagined South*. Durham: Duke UP, 2003.

Romine, Scott. *The Real South: Southern Narrative in the Age of Cultural Reproduction*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State UP, 2008.

Rommel-Ruiz, W. Brian. "Chapter 2: Redeeming the South, Redeeming the Nation." *American History Goes to the Movies – Hollywood and the American Experience*. New York & London: Routledge, 2011, pp. 47-78.

Yaeger, Patricia. *Dirt and Desire – Reconstructing Southern Women's Writing 1930-1990*. Chicago & London: The U of Chicago P, 2000.