

Fall 2015

ENGL 2043

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University of New Orleans

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New Orleans Literature
English 2043
MWF 11:00-11:50
LA 210
Dr. Rutledge
Fall 2015

Office Hours: LA 195
MWF 10:00-11:00
MW 1:00-2:00
WF 7:30-8:00
And by appointment:
280-7196 -or- drutledg@uno.edu

Course Description: This course will cover a variety of writings set in New Orleans. We'll be looking at each work to understand the unique view of the individual authors, as well as searching for themes that are central to New Orleans literature. How do these authors depict our city? What issues do they raise that continue to be relevant? We will discuss these topics and more while looking closely at over 100 years of writing.

Note: this is not a lecture course. Your responses and the class discussions will be essential to making this course a success.

Text: You will need to have the following books:

Sara Roahen, *Gumbo Tales*
Tennessee Williams, *A Streetcar Named Desire*
Robert Olen Butler, *A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain*
Natasha Tretheway, *Bellocq's Ophelia*
Where We Know: New Orleans as Home, ed. David Rutledge

Many of our readings will be posted on Moodle. You will need to print each of these and have them in class. Our tests – including the final – will be open-book; therefore, you will want to have a hard copy of each reading.

Grades and Assignments:

First, attendance and participation are both mandatory and will count for 10% of the final grade. One key to success in this class will be keeping up with the readings and with the material presented in class. Be here, be on time, and be prepared.

There is no difference between an “excused” or an “unexcused” absence. I will not be verifying doctor’s notes. If you miss more than four classes, you should drop the class. Each absence after the fourth will result in a 10% reduction in the final grade.

Second, there will be many quizzes. These will be to see that everyone is keeping up with the readings and the material presented in class. Quizzes will total 15% of the final grade. Thus, the daily in-class activity (attendance and quizzes) will count for 25% of the final grade.

Third, there will be one project/paper and one final paper. These will count for 15% each. We will discuss these papers in more detail, including the due dates, when they are officially assigned. I will hand out the first assignment on the second day of class.

There will be no late papers accepted. Computer problems are not sufficient cause for turning in a late paper. Show me work in progress to get some feedback and to avoid a failing grade caused by a failing printer.

A zero on either paper will result in a failing grade in the class.

Plagiarism will result in a zero for that paper (see previous sentence). If you plagiarize, you will fail the course and may be suspended from the university. When using the words or ideas of *any* source (books, best friends, internet, your mom) cite that source. If you have any questions about what counts as plagiarism, ask me before turning in your paper.

Finally, there will be two in-class essay tests worth 15% each during the semester, plus a final exam. The final exam will cover the entire semester and will count for 15% of the final grade.

Final Grade:	Attendance and Participation:	10%
	Quizzes:	15%
	Two tests:	15% each
	Paper/Project:	15%
	Final Paper:	15%
	Final Exam:	15%

Keep track of your grade. You may ask me at any time during the semester how you are doing.

We will try to stick to the schedule below, but some dates and assignments may change; you will be responsible for keeping up with those changes and with class material even in the case of an absence.

August 19 – Introduction

Aug. 21 – Lafcadio Hearn, “At the Gate of the Tropics,” “The Streets”

Aug. 24 – Hearn, “The French Market,” “New Orleans in Carnival Garb,” “The City of Dreams”

Aug. 26 – Hearn, “The Death of Marie Laveau,” “The Pelican’s Ghost”

Aug. 28 – George W. Cable, “Jean-ah Poquelin”

Aug. 31 – Cable, “Tite Poulette”

September 2 – “ “

Sept. 4 – Chopin, “A Matter of Prejudice”

Sept. 9 – Kate Chopin, “Athénaïse”

Sept. 11 – “ “

Sept. 14 – Faulkner, “Episode,” “Out of Nazareth,” “Jealousy”
Sept. 16 – Faulkner, “Cheest,” “The Kingdom of God,” “Damon and Pythias Unlimited”
Sept. 18 – Zora Neale Hurston, fr. *Mules and Men*

Sept. 21 – Test #1
Sept. 23 – from Sara Roahen, *Gumbo Tales*: “Sno-Balls”
Sept. 25 – Roahen, “Poisson Meunière Amandine”

Sept. 28 – Roahen, “Pho”
Sept. 30 – Roahen, “Oysters” and “Afterword – Turkey Bone Gumbo”
October 2 – Poetry Day (handouts) and Paper #1 Due

Oct. 5 – Tennessee Williams, *A Streetcar Named Desire*
Oct. 7 – “ “
Oct. 9 – “ “

Oct. 12 – “ “
Oct. 14 – Test #2

Oct. 19 – Truman Capote, “One Christmas”
Oct. 21 – Truman Capote, “Dazzle”
Oct. 23 – Tom Dent, *Ritual Murder: A One Act Play*

Oct. 26 – “ “
Oct. 28 – from Robert Olen Butler, *A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain*: “Fairy Tale”
Oct. 30 – Butler, “In the Clearing,” “Relic”

November 2 – Butler, “A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain”
Nov. 3 – Butler, “Love”
Nov. 5 – Natasha Tretheway, *Bellocq’s Ophelia*

Nov. 9 – “ “
Nov. 11 – “ “
Nov. 13 – from *Where We Know*: Barbara Bodichon, “A Dull Life” and Rebecca
Freeland-Hebert, “Tattooing Katrina”

Nov. 16 – from *Where We Know*: Jennifer Kuchta, “Jennie’s Grocery, R.I.P.”
Nov. 18 – from *Where We Know*: Ray Shea, “In My Home Over There”
Nov. 20 – from *Where We Know*: Lolis Eric Elie, “Still Live, With Voices”

Nov. 23 – tba
Nov. 25 – tba

Nov. 30 – tba
December 2 – tba/Paper #2 Due
Dec. 4 – Final Day/Prepare for Final Exam

Final Exam: Wednesday, December 9, 10:00-12:00

Student Learning Outcomes: by the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- > understand a broad range of New Orleans-based literature
- > be able to intelligently discuss the literary major themes of our city
- > display an ability to analyze – in writing and in discussion – this literature

** Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct for further information. The Code is available online at <http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu>.*

*** It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services as well as their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations. For more information, please go to <http://www.ods.uno.edu>.*