

**ENGLISH 285: THEMES IN AMERICAN WRITING:
NATIVE AMERICAN LITERATURE
COURSE SYLLABUS**

Spring 2008. Section 05—M, W 1:00-2:15

Dr. N. N. Augusté

Office: Bradley 223

Hours: M,W: 9:00-10:30; T,TH: 9:30 -12:00; and, by appointment

E-mail: augusten@gwm.sc.edu

Texts:

* Churchill, Ward. "A Day to Give Thanks?"

Conley, Robert. *Mountain Windsong: A Novel of the Trail of Tears*. Norman: U of Oklahoma P, 1992.

Montejo, Victor. *Testimony: Death of a Guatemalan Village*. Trans. Víctor Perera. Wilimantic, CT: Curbstone, 1987.

Starred items (*) can be found on reserve in Medford Library. Logically, copies need to be brought to class for reference.

Catalog Description:

(3) Reading a variety of American texts that exemplify persistent themes of American culture.

**Note:* Students must successfully complete English 101 and 102 (or equivalent) before taking any other English course.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify and understand varied characteristics of Native American and non-Native American literature
- Apply techniques of literary analysis to texts
- Use literary study to develop skills in careful reading and clear writing
- Demonstrate an understanding of the diverse social and historical contexts in which literary texts have been written and interpreted

Instructional Procedures:

Learning activities for this course will include individual reading and research, lectures, whole class discussions, small group work, informal and formal writing projects, and student presentations, perhaps both group and individual. A sense of reflection and dialogue will be indispensable.

Late Work Policy:

The instructor reserves the right to penalize or refuse late work. Rhetorical and Textual Analyses (RTA) will not be taken late, but can be reviewed for accuracy if the student would like feedback. All other late scored assignments will receive a letter grade deduction for each business day that the assignment is late.

Student Responsibilities:

1. Attendance:

Students are expected to attend every class meeting. Ultimately, it is the student's responsibility to locate class content that s/he may have missed via the professor or another student; failure to do so can result in missing impromptu assignments for credit or important announcements regarding future assignments, exams, or other projects.

Students will be allowed to make up an exam or project only if the professor has excused the absence beforehand. According to the USCL Academic Bulletin, "Absence from more than 10 percent of the scheduled class sessions, whether excused or unexcused, is excessive and the instructor may choose to exact a grade penalty for such absences." In other words, every class missed after the third missed class will result in a letter grade drop. For example, if you have earned a 94 (A) in the class and you miss four classes, the final score will be an 84 (B) and so on. Six absences will result in failure for the course.

***NOTE:** According to university policy "Students who are absent from any final examination will be given the grade of **F** on the course if they have not offered an excuse acceptable to the instructor. If excused they will be assigned a grade of **I** (see "I" entry under "Grading System"), and may complete the course through a deferred examination."

2. Rhetorical and Textual Analyses (RTA):

These responses will be collected and scored at the instructor's discretion. A form will be provided. These responses, at times, will be scored orally. These particular pieces will not be taken late; therefore, it is imperative to have a prepared response when due.

3. Group Work:

Working with others will be a regular and integral part of this course. Respecting others' opinions and ideas is essential in gaining skills that will assist you in life. Remember, some major leadership skills involve careful listening, leading, following, helping, delegating, and edifying. Perform these actions, and success will follow.

Academic Integrity Policy:

Each student is expected to adhere to the Academic Integrity Policy. Familiarize yourself with this policy, available on line at <http://www.sc.edu/academicintegrity/>.

Academic Disturbance Policy:

Disturbances in classes, labs, during field trips, lectures, presentations, and other academic activities may result in one or more of the following sanctions: verbal reprimand, written warning, permanent dismissal from the class, suspension from the University for a period of time, or permanent suspension from the University. If a student is dismissed from a class after the last day to withdraw from classes, the student will receive an F grade in the class. A student may appeal verbal reprimand, written warning, or permanent dismissal from the class to the Academic Dean. A student may appeal suspension from the University for a period of time or permanent suspension from the University to the Vice Provost for Regional Campuses.

Revision Policy:

A student may choose to revise one project over the semester. This revision policy is intended for work that needs major revision, and may include any assigned research essay, response, or other project, save the final exam prompt. If the student chooses to revise a piece of writing, s/he must schedule a conference within 24 hours of receiving the graded work (i.e. if a piece is handed back on a Monday, the student has until Tuesday to schedule an appointment). At the time of the conference, the student and professor will agree upon a new due date for the work. This new due date will be treated as any other, and subject to the late work policy (see above).

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the act of taking someone else's ideas and/or wording as your own—that is, using another's ideas and or wording without clearly and sufficiently giving credit through the use of proper MLA citation. The first unintentional violation will require a correctional rewrite of the plagiarized sections of the paper before a grade can be assessed. All other unintentional violations will be penalized after a correctional rewrite. Intentional plagiarism will merit the writer a grade of zero and a disciplinary conference to determine any other appropriate remediation.

If you are unsure if you have plagiarized, ASK ME (prior to turning in a piece of writing, i.e. during the revision stage). This act—as well as correctly utilizing MLA citation guidelines—will prevent future problems from developing. I may ask you to turn in a report from a website plagiarism tool as a means of ensuring original work.

Students with Disabilities:

If you have a disability that could affect your performance in this class or for which you need accommodation, please contact the Dean of Academic Affairs at 803.313.7101.

Student Success Center:

The Academic Success Center provides resources for students such as tutoring in groups or one on one, study skills, workshops, and review sessions for many USCL courses.

Website: <http://usclancaster.sc.edu/asc/index.html>.

Phone: 803.313.7113

Evaluation:

Rhetorical and Textual Analyses: 30% (15 @ 2points each)

Wisdom Project: 20%

Archival Project: 20%

Catawba Reservation Visit Response: 10%

Representation Analysis 15%

Final Exam 5%

Total: 100 points possible

*** This syllabus is subject to change. Any modifications will be announced in class or possibly via email.**

Spring 2008 Schedule and Due Dates

August

25: Introduction to Course

27: Conley, 1-36

September

1: Labor Day: Class Dismissed

3: Conley, 37-73

8: Conley, 73-105

10: Conley, 106-139

15: Conley, 140-End and Epilogue; Introduction to Wisdom Project

17: American Indian Photographic Analysis

22: Introduction to Archival Project

24: Visit to Catawba Reservation

29: **DUE:** Catawba Reservation Visit Response

October

1: Group Research for Archival Project

6: **DUE:** Wisdom Project

8: **DUE:** Wisdom Project

9-10: Fall Break: Class Dismissed

13: Montejo, 1-28

15: Montejo, 29-48

20: Montejo, 49-68

22: Montejo, 69-86

27: Montejo 87-End

29: Film, *Blood Diamond*

November

3: Film, *Blood Diamond*

5: Film, *Blood Diamond*

10: Film, *Blood Diamond*

12: **DUE:** Archival Project Presentations

17: **DUE:** Archival Project Presentations

19: **DUE:** Archival Project Presentations

24: * Churchill, "A Day to Give Thanks?"

26-28: Holiday: Class Dismissed

December

1: **DUE:** Representation Analysis

3: **DUE:** Exam Prompt