

Graduate English Course Description Packet

August Intersession 2015

Revised 03-12-2015

ENGL 5243, Survey of Germanic Languages

Teacher: J. B. Smith

Textbooks Required:

Orrin Robinson, *Old English and Its Closest Relatives: A Survey of the Earliest Germanic Languages* (978-0804722216).

Description: This course provides a linguistic survey of the earliest Germanic languages. We will discuss the separation of common Germanic from the rest of the Proto-Indo-European languages; the common features of Germanic languages; internal divisions; and the cultural history of early Germanic speakers.

Students must have a working knowledge of one Germanic language, medieval or modern (excepting Modern English). Undergraduates are welcome to take this course, though they must contact Prof. Smith (jbs016@uark.edu) to gain permission.

Essays, exams, and other major requirements for graduate students at the 5000 level: quizzes; short linguistic analyses; final.

ENGL 5723/6733, Advanced Studies in the Literature of the American South: 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, action figures, 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 trace 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 sexual, racial, class, and gender 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.

Requirements: Daily quizzes, writing portfolio, enthusiastic participation, presentation and discussion facilitation, cumulative final exam.

MA Advisory Code: G