

Southern Poetry

This graduate seminar will provide an introduction to Southern poetry from the 18th century to the 21st. Despite its considerable merit, the best Southern poetry has received nothing like the attention garnered by the best Southern prose fiction; as a result, plenty of room remains for original criticism and scholarship. I will encourage the seminar's participants to consider their seminar papers as first steps toward conference presentations and scholarly journal articles. The January 2009 meeting of the Mississippi Philological Association offers an early opportunity for presentation of work from the seminar, and I hope we can assemble a panel or two for that event.

Although there are several interesting anthologies of Southern poetry available, a good comprehensive one has yet to be published. For early poetry, we will rely on *Documenting the American South* (docsouth.unc.edu), a large repository of out-of-copyright Southern literature. For poetry from the early 20th century to the present, we will use the following required books:

- Ammons, A. R. *Collected Poems 1951-1971*. ISBN 0-393-32192-4.
Jarrell, Randall. *Selected Poems*. Ed. William H. Pritchard. ISBN 0-374-53088-2.
(Alternative: *Complete Poems*. ISBN 0-374-51305-8.)
Pratt, William, ed. *The Fugitive Poets*. ISBN 978-1-879941-00-7.
Stokesbury, Leon, ed. *The Made Thing: An Anthology of Contemporary Southern Poetry*. 2nd ed. ISBN 978-1557285799.
Trethewey, Natasha. *Native Guard*. ISBN 978-0618872657.
Warren, Robert Penn. *Selected Poems*. Ed. John Burt. ISBN 978-0-8071-2677-6.
(Alternative: *Collected Poems*. Ed. John Burt. ISBN 978-0-8071-2333-1.)

I will post additional materials to WebCT.

Assignments will likely be one paper, a midterm exam, a final exam, and two 10-minute presentations.

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Expect varying degrees of attention to work by these and other poets:

Ebenezer Cook • George Moses Horton • Edgar Allan Poe
Henry Timrod • Sidney Lanier • James Weldon Johnson • John Crowe Ransom
Donald Davidson • Allen Tate • Robert Penn Warren
James Still • Randall Jarrell • James Dickey • Donald Justice
A. R. Ammons • Miller Williams • Charles Wright
James Applewhite • Fred Chappell • Betty Adcock • William Harmon
James Seay • Kelly Cherry • Gibbons Ruark
Henry Taylor • Dave Smith • Ellen Bryant Voigt • Kathryn Stripling Byer
Robert Morgan • Yusef Komunyakaa • Rodney Jones
Andrew Hudgins • Ron Rash • Michael McFee • Natasha Trethewey

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