

LIT 238 – Appalachian Literature
Sinclair Community College
Spring Quarter 2003

Instructors: Carol Baugh and Steve Whiting

Office Hours: by appointment

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Class Meeting Location: Volunteers of America Building, 2601 E. 4th St.

Class Meeting Time: Monday evenings 6:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

Course Description: Literary themes of selected contemporary writers identified with the Appalachian region of the United States.

Course Objectives: The objectives of this course are: 1) to identify major contemporary Appalachian writers; 2) to identify and analyze typical Appalachian themes such as nature, spirituality, family and community, sense of place, among others; 3) to become better readers, critical thinkers, speakers, and writers; 4) to comprehend and distinguish among several literary genres such as nonfiction essays, short stories, poetry, and novels.

Course Requirements:

1. Attendance: Each student is expected to attend class regularly and participate in class discussions.
2. Book Reviews: Each student is required to write three (3) book reviews – two (2) three page reviews and one (1) five page review. You may incorporate information from the three page reviews into the larger five page paper. You may select books from the list provided (refer to pages 6-9) or you may select books of your choice, in the latter case the book(s) must be approved by the instructors. Book reviews should follow a standard format, including a bibliographical citation (author, book title, place of publication, publisher, and date). Book reviews should be typed, double-spaced. Book reviews are due **April 28, May 12, and June 9**, although, you may submit reviews earlier if you wish. Unless there is a valid reason such as illness, late reviews will not be accepted.

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A good book review should contain the following points:

- A. What is the book about? Provide a brief summary of the book, describing the main theme of the book, major events, their significance, and (if there are any) main character(s).
- B. What are the major theses? How does the author defend these theses? This represents the main body (or major portion) of the review.
- C. How do you evaluate the book? Do you agree or disagree with the author's arguments and why? Describe what you like or dislike about the book, including comments on the subject, writing style, organization, and the use of sources.

Grading:

Your final grade for this course will be determined as follows:

Review 1 (3 pages)	20%
Review 2 (3 pages)	20%
Review 3 (10 pages)	30%
Attendance and Class Participation	30%

Standard Sinclair Community College grading scale:

90 – 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
59 and below	F

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES:

If you must withdraw from a class, you are required to complete a withdrawal form in the Office of Registration and Student Records (Room 10-231) by the eighth week of the quarter to prevent receiving an “F” for the course.

Students are responsible for informing the instructor of any instructional accommodations and/or special learning needs at the beginning of the quarter. Assistance is available to eligible students through the Office of Disability Services, Room 10-421, telephone number 512-5113.

The English Department provides a limited number of computers as well as “spot tutoring” to all students enrolled in an English course on a first come, first served basis. Each quarter's open hours are available in Room 3221 the first week of classes.

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Week 5 April 28

First Book Review Due

Discuss Book Reviews

Volume One, Chapter 6 Majority and Minority

“Cherokee Heritage and Folklore” by Carl Lambert

(page 215-219)

“The White Gals” by Lynwood Montell (page 236-238)

Volume One, Chapter 7 Feuds and Violence

“New Year’s Day 1888” by Otis Rice (page 269-275)

“The Sutton Pie Safe” by Rinckney Benedict

(page 278-284)

“Skinning the Dog” by John Morefield (page 286-294)

Volume One, Chapter 8 Exile, Return, and Sense of Place

“Where Daniel Boone Stood” by Gurney Norman

(page 315-318)

“Shiloh” by John Stephenson (page 331-340)

“Extended Learning” by Lisa Koger (page 341-346)

Also review poems:

“My Grandfather Belonged to the Ku Klux Klan” by
Garry Barker (page 234-236)

“Crows” by Jo Carson (page 245-246)

“The Ballad of Frankie Silver” (page 294-296)

“The Brier Losing Touch with His Traditions” by
Jim Wayne Miller (page 330-331)

Week 6 May 5

Volume Two, Chapter 1 Family and Community

“Fat Monroe” by Gurney Norman (page 351-356)

“First Day of Winter” by Breece Pancake (page 378-381)

“The Washerwoman’s Day” by Harriette Arnow

(page 383-389)

Volume Two, Chapter 2 Religion and Worship

“Into the Valley” by Walter Posey (page 399-405)

“Footwashing” by Howard Dorgan (page 407-409)

“Serpent-Handling Believers” by Thomas Burton

(page 417-421)

“Between the Lines” by Lee Smith (page 428-437)

Also review poems:

“Decoration Day” by Bennie Lee Sinclair (page 377)

“The Foot Washing” by George Ella Lyon (page 406-407)

“salvation” by Lou Crabtree (page 422-423)

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Week 7	May 12	Second Book Review Due Discuss Book Reviews
Week 8	May 19	Volume Two, Chapter 3 Folklore, Mythology, and Superstition “The Vanishing Hitchhiker” by Ambrose Manning (page 451-452) Volume Two, Chapter 4 Dialect and Language “Whickity-Whack: Death in a Sack” by Ray Hicks (page 488-492) Volume Two, Chapter 5 Sports and Play “The Rabbit Hunt” by Randall Norris (page 556-558) Also review poems: “Ghost Story” by Kathryn Byer (page 453-454) “Darlin’ Cory” (page 461-462)
Week 9	May 26	Memorial Day – no class
Week 10	June 2	Volume Two, Chapter 6 Laughter and Humor “Where the Lion Roareth and the Wang Doodle Mourneth for His First-Born” (page 584-585) Volume Two, Chapter 7 Education and Criticism “Cannibals and Christians” by David Whisnant (page 646-649) “All That Is Native and Still Undefined: A Response to David Whisnant” by Lewis and Kirby (page 650-654) Volume Two, Chapter 8 Regional Identity and the Future “Appalachia” by James Still (page 683) “The Common Lot” by Emma Bell Miles (page 697-708) Also review poems: “Our Heritage” by Jesse Stuart (page 739-741) “Heritage” by James Still (page 741)
Week 11	June 9	Third Book Review Due Discuss Book Reviews Course Wrap-Up

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Noah Adams

Far Appalachia (2001) Sinclair Community College

James Agee

poetry

Hariettia Arnow

Between the Flowers (1999)

The Dollmaker (1954) Sinclair Community College

Flowering of the Cumberland (1963)

Hunter's Horn (1949)

The Kentucky Trace: A Novel of the American Revolution (1974)

Mountain Path (1936) Sinclair Community College

Old Burnside (1977) Sinclair Community College

Seedtime on the Cumberland (1960) Sinclair Community College

The Weedkiller's Daughter (1969)

David Baldacci

Wish You Well (2000) Sinclair Community College

Bill Bryson

A Walk in the Woods (1998)

John Fox Jr.

Blue-Grass and Rhododendron Outdoors in Old Kentucky (1901) Sinclair CC

Christmas Eve on Lonesome (1904)

Crittenden: A Kentucky Story of Love and War (1900)

A Cumberland Vendetta (1900)

The Heart of the Hills (1913)

Hell-fer-Sartain (1909)

In Happy Valley (1917)

The Kentuckians (1909)

Knight of the Cumberland (1909)

The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come (1904)

A Mountain Europa (1909)

The Trail of the Lonesome Pine (1908)

Lucy Furman

The Christmas Tree on Clinch (1912)

The Glass Window: A Story of the Kentucky Mountains (1929)

The Lonesome Road (1927)

Mothering on Perilous (1913)

The Quare Women: A Story of the Kentucky Mountains (1923)

Sight to the Blind: A Story (1914)

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Denise Giardina

Storming Heaven (1987)
The Unquiet Earth (1992)

Homer Hickam

Back to the Moon (1999)
The Coalwood Way (2000)
Rocket Boys (1998) or October Sky (2000) Sinclair Community College
Sky of Stone (2001)
Torpedo Junction (1989) not related to Appalachia
We Are Not Afraid (2002)

Sharon McCrumb

An Autumn Migration (1998)
The Ballad of Frankie Silver (1998)
Bimbos and Zombies (1997)
Foggy Mountain Breakdown and Other Stories (1997)
Gerda's Sense of Snow (1998)
The Hangman's Beautiful Daughter (1992)
Highland Laddie Gone (1986)
If Ever I Return, Pretty Peggy-O (1990) Sinclair Community College
If I'd Killed Him When I Met Him (1996)
Keepers of the Legends (1998)
Lovely In Her Bones (1985)
MacPherson's Lament (1992)
The Matchmaker (1995)
Missing Susan (1991)
Paying the Piper (1988)
The PMS Outlaws (2000)
Precious Jewel (1996)
A Predatory Woman (1994)
The Rosewood Casket (1996)
She Walks These Hills (1994)
Sick of Shadows (1984)
The Songcatcher (2001)
The Windsor Knot (1990)

Jim Wayne Miller

And Ladies of the Club (1996)
Brier, His Book (1988)
Brier Losing Touch With His Traditions (1999)
Dialogue With a Dead Man (1974)
A Felt Linkage (1996)
His First, Best Country (1993)

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Jim Wayne Miller cont'd.

The More Things Change the More They Stay the Same (1971)
The Mountains Have Come Closer (1980)
Newfound (1989)

Gurney Norman

Divine Right's Trip: A Folktale (1972)
Kinfolks: The Wilgus Stories (1977) Sinclair Community College
Notes on the Kentucky Cycle (1999)

Gwyn Hyman Rubio

Icy Sparks (1998) Sinclair Community College

Lee Smith

Black Mountain Breakdown (1980)
The Bubba Stories (1992)
Cakewalk (1980)
The Christmas Letters (1996)
The Devil's Dream (1992)
Fair and Tender Ladies (1989) Sinclair Community College
Family Linen (1985) Sinclair Community College
Fancy Strut (1973)
Fried Chicken (1994)
In the Heat of the Night (1995)
Kidnapped by Everyone (1986)
The Last Day the Dogbushes Bloomed (1968)
The Last Girls (2002)
Me and My Bady View the Eclipse (1990)
News of the Spirit (1997)
Oral History (1983)
Saving Grace (1995)
Something in the Wind (1971)
Tongues of Fire (1995)

James Still

An Appalachian Mother Goods (1998)
Jack and the Wonder Beams (1977)
On Troublesome Creek (1941)
Sporty Creek (1977)
The Wolfpen: Poetry (1986)
The Wolfpen: Riddles (1975)

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Jesse Stuart

Daughter of the Legend (1965)

Kentucky Is My Land (1952)

Men of the Mountains (1941)

Mr. Gallion's School (1967)

Old Ben (1970)

Strength from the Hills (1960)

The Thread That Runs So True (1974)

Children's Books by:

George Ella Lyon

Lauren Mills

Cynthia Rylant

James Still