

**COURSE NUMBER:** FMS 120  
**COURSE TITLE:** Freshman Seminar in Literature  
**CREDITS:** 3:3  
**PREREQUISITES/COREQUISITES:** none

**FOR WHOM PLANNED:** Freshman Seminar in Literature is restricted to first year students only. This course meets the General Education Curriculum Literature requirement. This section is also Writing Intensive.

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:** Nancy Gray Bucknall, 25 Foust, 334-4361, [Nancy\\_Bucknall@uncg.edu](mailto:Nancy_Bucknall@uncg.edu), Office Hours TR 3:30-4:45

**DESCRIPTION:** How does North Carolina look through the eyes of local contemporary novelists? How do writers build a convincing sense of place in the worlds they build with their words? In this course, we will read from the mountains to the beach, sampling work from Fred Chappell, Clyde Edgerton, Kaye Gibbons, Jill McCorkle, Michael Parker and Ron Rash. During our tour, we'll consider what it means to be a North Carolina novelist and how language, place, and truth interact.

#### STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

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

**TEACHING METHODS AND ASSIGNMENTS FOR ACHIEVING LEARNING OUTCOMES:** Careful reading and clear writing are best supported by testing one's ideas in a community of readers & writers. Our class will function as such a community through in-class discussions & group work. I expect each student to come to class having carefully read the assigned text and having considered the questions for discussion. Your papers will give you the opportunity to demonstrate your developing abilities to identify and understand the literary texts we have read as a class, as well as your writing skills.

#### EVALUATION AND GRADING:

Class Participation	10%
Responses	30%
Blackboard quizzes	20%
Literary Map Presentation	10%
Prospectus	5%
Rough Draft Workshop	5%
Final Paper	20%

#### REQUIRED TEXTS/READINGS/REFERENCES:

Chappell, Fred. *I Am One of You Forever: A Novel*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1987.

Edgerton, Clyde. *The Bible Salesman: A Novel*. New York: Back Bay Books, 2008.

Gibbons, Kaye. *Ellen Foster*. Chapel Hill: Algonquin Books, 1987.

McCorkle, Jill. *Ferris Beach*. Chapel Hill: Algonquin Books, 2009.

Parker, Michael. *If You Want Me to Stay: A Novel*. Chapel Hill: Algonquin Books, 2005.

Rash, Ron. *One Foot in Eden: A Novel*. New York: Picador, 2002.

#### WRITTEN WORK:

You will be responsible for completing a Blackboard quiz each day before attending class. The quizzes will cover the reading that is assigned that day, prompting each of you to be prepared to discuss the reading. You will also be required to submit six response papers during the semester. These response papers will be short (1-2 typewritten pages), focused responses to a specific question regarding the novel we are reading, and will serve as a starting point for the class discussion. Finally, you will be responsible for completing a longer (4-5 page) research paper focused on one of the six writers we've read as a class.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY:** Academic integrity is founded upon and encompasses the following five values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Supporting and affirming these values is essential to promoting and maintaining a high level of academic integrity. You will be required to sign the Academic Integrity Policy on all major work submitted for the course, and any violations of the policy will be reported to the Dean of Students Office. For more information, please see:

<http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete/>

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Regular class attendance is a responsibility and a privilege of university education. Our class will work best when you are present, having read the assignments and ready to engage in meaningful, respectful discussion. If you miss more than 6 class meetings, you will fail the course. If you have a long-standing chronic health condition that might make it difficult for you to meet the terms of the attendance policy, I encourage you to speak with me early in the semester.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** UNCG seeks to comply fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a disability must be registered with the Office of Disability Services in 215 Elliott University Center, 334-5440, <http://ods.dept.uncg.edu/>, [ods@uncg.edu](mailto:ods@uncg.edu). If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible.

**UNIVERSITY WRITING CENTER** offers UNCG students, staff, and faculty the opportunity for individual consultation at any stage of any writing project. Depending on where you are in your writing process when you visit the Writing Center and what your major concerns are, a consultation might involve deciding how to approach a particular assignment, identifying a thesis and sculpting a rough outline, reading a rough draft to check for general coherence and clarity, incorporating new material into a revision, addressing problems of grammar and sentence structure, learning how to cite sources properly – or any of a myriad of other questions about writing. The staff conducted over 6,000 conferences last year, and each one was different because each writer and each piece of writing is different. Here are a few reminders as you get ready for a visit to the Writing Center.

- Bring a written copy of the assignment
- Know your Professor's expectations for writing in your discipline
- Know the name of your Professor's preferred citation style, if applicable
- Bring any previous feedback that you have received
- Your consultant will ask you what you want to work on: Have an answer! Think about what to address in your Writing Center session, as this will focus your writing efforts and get the process of self-reflection started, which is an instrumental part of the writing process.

Located in 3211 MHRA Building, the Writing Center is open Sundays from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Thursdays 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Fridays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Writers may call 334-3125 for an appointment or just drop in, bringing their work in progress, their assignments, and their questions.