

FINAL RESEARCH PAPER: THE MANY SOUTHS

Over the course of the semester, we have identified defining characteristics and themes of southern literature. Your final research paper should present a coherent analytical argument identifying a particular “South” or southern characteristic in one or more of the novels we have read in class. Your paper should demonstrate a thoughtful consideration of the primary text(s) in relation to the outside scholarly research you have done on the topics and themes related to your argument. Your research papers should be polished, final drafts.

****Writing Checkpoint: Paper Proposal Due 11/12****

Thesis Statement:

Your thesis statement should be clear, specific and focused. You will want to argue a point that is supportable (through your use of the text) but also is not something on which everyone already agrees. Your thesis statement should be complex, meaning it answers the reader’s “so what?” or “why does this matter?” questions--so simply arguing that you see X operating in the text is not enough, say you see X happening and this is why it matters/is significant/important that X is happening.

****Writing Checkpoint: Working Thesis Statement Due 11/26****

Body - Support and Evidence:

You will need to back up each claim you make in your essay. You will use your sources (i.e. specific examples from your selected texts) to build credibility in the claims you make. At the same time, you want to show the reader that you know how your argument fits in, responds to, or challenges the scholarly sources you include on your topic. Your research is not there to make your argument for you but to help you support your argument, so you need to show how what you’re saying about the text challenges, complicates, extends, or is different from what others have said on these same texts/topics.

You will use both direct quotes and paraphrases and will cite all your sources correctly as well as prepare a Works Cited page to accompany the essay. Quotes and paraphrases should not simply “drop-in” to your paragraph but be integrated and contextualized with your claim/argument. Long, offset quotes from the text (more than 4-lines) should be used sparingly and will not count toward word length. Try to paraphrase these longer passages.

****Five Entry Annotated Bibliography: Due 11/21****

Your final paper must include at least **3 scholarly sources**, in addition to citing your primary source texts.

Formatting Requirements

MLA format for header, citations, and works cited sheet

Times New Roman, 12-point font, 1” margins all around including the bottom, title, and 1200-1700 words (~5-7 pages) (not including works cited sheet; you must include a word count at the bottom of your last page)

DUE DATE: Research Papers will be due via email by 1:30pm on Thursday, December 5. If you would prefer to turn in a hard copy, you must do so at the beginning of class. Any papers received after 1:30pm on the due date will be considered late.