Meeting Time: T & Th 11:00-12:15  Zehmer 109
Office: Zehmer 124
Phone: 4556  Home: 328-5229
Email: gim5v@uvawise.edu  *email is the best way to get in touch with me
Office Hours: MWF: 11:00-12:00 & T-Th: 1:30-3:00  *or by appointment

Required Texts:
Royall Tyler's *The Contrast* –ed. Cynthia A. Kierner
*Humor of the Old Southwest.* -eds. Hennig Cohen and William B. Dillingham
*African American Humor* – ed. Mel Watkins
Mark Twain  *Pudd'nhead Wilson*

Additional Material – Handout:
Joel Chandler Harris “Blue Dave”
Flannery O’Conner “Revelation” “Everything that Rises Must Converge”

Course Description:
This course is designed to offer a survey of American humor depicted in literature (written and oral) from the early American era through the twentieth century. The main focus of the course will be on the genres and oral traditions of various schools of American humor. We begin with the first play written and produced by an American author and then move into the highly popular fiction of the humorists of the Old South in the mid-nineteenth century. We will then examine the African American trickster tradition that emerged in the antebellum era and the ways in which this oral tradition influenced post-Reconstruction authors. We will read primarily short stories, but also some poetry, drama, and critical essays. As we read, we will examine literature as a reflection of American culture during that period and attempt to reconstruct the historical and social context(s) in which these works were produced. We will examine issues of gender, class, race, and region, as well as aesthetic and thematic techniques. To achieve these goals, students will need to exercise analytical and critical thinking skills. There will be frequent opportunities to write and speak in class.

Course Objectives:
- Identify and understand varied characteristics of American humor in 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 these works were written, received, and circulated

Course Requirements and Evaluation:
You must keep up with the reading and complete and turn in all assignments on the dates that they are scheduled in order to pass this course. I will make myself available during office hours and at other scheduled times as needed. Class participation is mandatory in this course and will be measured in several ways, including preparedness for class, attentiveness, and cogent contributions to class discussions. Because this class will be very discussion oriented, please be respectful of the opinions of others; however, your opinion is always appreciated and encouraged, and, please feel free to disagree with me. I am a reader of literature just like you and have an opinion that is subject to disagreement; indeed, some of the most interesting class discussions I have encountered were generated by respectful disagreement. I will share my opinion with the class, but don’t look to me to validate a critical interpretation. I want to know what you think. Also, if you are uncomfortable asking a question in class (for any reason), feel free to drop an anonymous note in my mailbox, and I will address the question during the next meeting.

Your Final Grade will be determined by the following:

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>Presentation</td>
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<td>Commonplace Book</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
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Attendance and Assignment Policy:
I expect students to attend class and arrive on time. We will frequently use class time for discussion, and your presence is important to the success of the class. After four absences of any kind, your grade will be lowered a third of a grade for each absence. Assignments must be handed in on time or they will not be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made with me. Please see me or contact me if you anticipate missing a deadline. Appropriate spelling, punctuation, grammar and DOCUMENTATION is expected on all work turned in.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. *Any student caught plagiarizing ANY assignment will receive an F for the Course – Plagiarism is not simply copying word for word the writing of another but claiming that the ideas of another are your own. Failure to Document appropriately is also considered plagiarism. Literature courses require you to use MLA documentation guidelines for all work in which you use sources. We will go over MLA procedures in class.

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<tr>
<th>Schedule</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Presentation &amp; Due Dates</th>
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| 1. T: 1/24  
   Th: 1/26 | Syllabus – policies and assign. Lecture & Documentation | |
| 2. T: 1/31  
   Th: 2/2 | Contrast Act I-III  
   Contrast Act IV-V | CB Due |
| 3. T: 2/7  
   Th: 2/9 | Longstreet 30, Kirkman 60  
   McNutt 81,86, Noland 117 | |
| 4. T: 2/14  
   Th: 2/16 | Taliaferro136, Thompson 153,161  
   Robb 176, January 249 | |
| 5. T: 2/21  
   Th: 2/23 | Hooper 255,261,268 Thorpe 336  
   Hall 364, Lewis 417,419,426 | CB Due |
| 6. T: 2/28  
   Th: 3/1 | G.W. Harris 201,206,212  
   G.W. Harris 217,224,231 | |
| 7. T: 3/6  
   Th: 3/8 | J.C. Harris “Blue Dave”  
   Midterm Exam | |
| 8. T:3/13  
   Th: 3/15 | Spring Break | CB Due |
| 9. T: 3/20  
   Th: 3/22 | B. Rabbit 5-16 and John 47-51  
   Shine 105, SignifyingMonkey102 | CB Due |
| 10. T: 3/27  
   Th: 3/29 conference | Chesnutt 30-44 | No Class |
| 11. T: 4/3  
   Th: 4/5 | Chesnutt 64-74  
   Ellison 219-233 | CB Due |
| 12. T: 4/10  
   Th: 4/2 | Hughes 190-200  
   Fisher 116-130 | |
| 13. T: 4/17  
   Th: 4/19 | Johnson 321-336  
   Rock – 337-352 | CB Due |
| 14. T: 4/24  
   Th: 4/26 | O’Connor “Everything” “Rev”  
   Twain Ch.1-10 | |
| 15. T: 5/1  
   Th: 5/3 last day | Twain Ch. 11-conclusion  
   Final Exam Review | Research Paper Due |

Final Exam TBA