

**The University in American Literature and Culture, AML 4453, 3734**  
Mondays 4:05-7:05pm, TUR 1101 / K. Emery, TUR 4111, Office hours Thurs 4-6pm

From Thomas Jefferson to Tom Perrotta, American writers have explored the meaning of higher education in and to US culture. Their understandings of the University are inevitably caught up with ideas and ideals central to the American experience: the dream of upward mobility, the democratic faith in public deliberation, the myth of meritocracy. Like the country itself, the American University is cross-cut by class, race, and gender. It represents different things to different segments of the population and serves different functions in different circumstances. The University has been a space of conflict and contestation, of conversation and community, of cooperation and of competition. It has been a force for assimilation, a haven for dissent, an agent of repression, and a scene of protest. It has offered the country both vision and violence.

Drawing on works from diverse genres, this course will consider various ways in which higher education in general and the research university in particular have been conceived and experienced in the United States. We will also talk with scholars, activists, and administrators involved in shaping our own University's present uses and possible futures.

**Course policies**

Papers are due no later than the beginning of the class period on the designated date; late papers will not be accepted without documentation of an acceptable (typically medical) excuse. For your own protection, you are required to make and keep an extra copy of all work submitted. Please also retain notes and drafts; you may be required to submit these upon request. All work noted on the syllabus or assigned in class is required unless changes are explicitly stipulated. Any changes to the syllabus will be announced; it is the student's responsibility to keep informed of any such changes. Students are responsible for all material covered and work assigned during any absence, excused or unexcused. ***Any form of cheating, including plagiarism, will result in a failing grade in the course and an official report filed with the university.*** It is expected that you will be familiar with the University's policies on scholastic dishonesty. If you have any questions or concerns about academic integrity, it is imperative that you inform me ASAP.

**Course requirements and grade computation**

Attendance, participation, and presentation: 25%  
Quizzes and reading responses: 25%

Paper #1: 25%  
Paper #2: 25%

**Required Books**

Marc Bousquet, *How the University Works*  
Jo Freeman, *At Berkeley in the 60's*  
Clark Kerr, *The Uses of the University: Fifth Edition*  
Christopher Newfield, *Unmaking the Public University*  
Tom Perrotta, *Joe College*  
Bill Readings, *The University in Ruins*  
Richard Russo, *Straight Man*  
Jane Smiley, *Moo*

*(Additional readings available online, on electronic reserve unless otherwise noted.)*

SCHEDULE (subject to adjustment according to class needs)

- August 26 (1) "Report of the Commissioners for the University of Virginia, August 4, 1818" <[http://mailer.fsu.edu/~njumonvi/jefferson\\_uva.htm](http://mailer.fsu.edu/~njumonvi/jefferson_uva.htm)>  
(2) Booker T. Washington, Ch. 8, "Teaching School in a Stable and a Hen-house," & Ch. 10, "A Harder Task than Making Bricks without Straw," *Up from Slavery* (free download, <http://books.google.com/>)
- September 2 LABOR DAY, CLASSES DO NOT MEET
- September 9 (1) Thorstein Veblen, "Introductory" to *The Higher Learning in America*  
(2) W.E.B. DuBois, (a) "Of Mr. Booker T. Washington and Others" and (b) "The Talented Tenth" (available via *Ares* electronic course reserve)  
(3) Tom Perrotta, *Joe College*
- September 16 Marc Bousquet, *How the University Works*, chapters 1 and 4;  
Jane Smiley, *Moo*, Part One
- September 23 Bousquet, finish; Smiley, Part Two
- September 30 Christopher Newfield, *Unmaking the Public University*, 1-122;  
Malcolm Gladwell, "The Matthew Effect"; Smiley, Part Three
- October 7 Newfield, 125-end, Smiley, Part Four
- October 14 Slaughter & Rhoades, "Policy Environment for Academic Capitalism";  
Emery, "Crisis Management" (RCM at UF); Smiley, Part Five

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, PAPER #1 DUE by 4pm** (via email or to department mailbox)

- October 21 Richard Russo, *Straight Man*
- October 28 Jo Freeman, *At Berkeley in the '60s*
- November 4 Clark Kerr, *The Uses of the University*
- November 11: HOMECOMING, CLASSES DO NOT MEET
- November 18 Bill Readings, *The University in Ruins*
- November 25 June Jordan, "Bringing Back the Person";  
Roderick Ferguson, "The Racial Genealogy of Excellence";
- December 2 Moten and Harney, "The University and the Undercommons"

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, PAPER #2 DUE by 4pm** (via email or to department mailbox)