Spring 2020 Course Description

Instructor: Susan Egenolf  
Course: ENGL 305  
Title: Texas Literature

Description: This course foregrounds Texas Literature—with literature being widely defined to include multi-media, such as written texts, film, artwork, artifacts, and archival documents. We will also read poetry, essays, plays, novels and short stories. We will think about what it means to be a Texan, about the components that construct individual and state identity. What is the mythos or ideology that contributes to the sense of Texas? How do gender, race and religion contribute to Texan identity? Texas is a state of mind, but it’s also a state with a rich and diverse cultural and geopolitical past and present, constructed from a wide range of texts.

Proposed Readings: Caddo, and Kiowa-Apache legends; The Legend of Pecos Bill; Cormac McCarthy’s All the Pretty Horses; Larry McMurtry’s The Last Picture Show; Celeste Bedford Walker’s play Camp Logan; selections from Sandra Cisneros’s Woman Hollering Creek, Jia Tolentino’s Trick Mirror, H.G. Bissinger’s Friday Night Lights, and the border writings of Estela Portillo, Gloria Anzaldúa, and Rogelio Gomez; the poetry of Naomi Shihab Nye and Larry D. Thomas. Films could include Giant, Dir. George Stevens (1956); All the Pretty Horses, Dir. Billy Bob Thornton (2000); Lone Star, Dir. John Sayles (1996); and the Friday Night Lights series.