

Freshman Seminar 1020
Appalachia on Film
Spring 2002

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This course will serve as a brief introduction to issues of Southern Appalachia and Appalachians and how they have been perceived in American popular culture, in particular, through that most pervasive and influential of media – Hollywood films. We will view the nine films listed below (in historical order, not the order in which they were produced) on the Tuesday nights indicated, and meet on the following Thursday mornings to discuss them.

Assigned readings will be limited to one book: J.W. Williamson's *Hillbillyland*, available at the bookstores, on campus and off.

Films	Film Showing Tues. 8 PM LeConte 101	Discussion Thurs. 11 AM LeConte 201
<i>Journey of August King</i>	Jan. 15	Jan.17
<i>Matewan</i>	Feb. 5	Feb. 7
<i>Songcatcher</i>	Feb. 12	Feb. 14
<i>Sergeant York</i>	Feb. 26	Feb. 28
<i>Thunder Road</i>	Mar. 5	Mar. 7
<i>The Dollmaker</i>	Mar. 12	Mar. 14
<i>Coal Miner's Daughter</i>	Mar. 26	Mar. 28
<i>Deliverance</i>	Apr. 9	Apr. 11
<i>Foxfire</i>	Apr. 16	Apr. 18

Each student will write a 3-page review (typed, double-spaced) of each film to be turned in *before* the Thursday discussion of that film. The review should critically examine what each film reveals about the Appalachian experience -- both in reality and in stereotype or myth. The review should critically examine the issues laid out below:

1. What tone does the movie take toward Appalachian life? (degrading, contemptuous, satiric, reverential, etc.)
2. How do the characters in the movie come across? (heroic? noble? villainous? comical? pitiful? etc.)
3. What techniques are used to convey these characteristics? Are they persuasive?
4. What impact would the movie likely have on how American filmgoers view Appalachia?
5. How does the movie reflect its time and attitudes of that time?

Students should read and refer to appropriate sections of *Hillbillyland* in writing these reviews, and be prepared to discuss Williamson's views and whether or not you agree with them in class discussion.

This course will be graded on a traditional A-F scale. The grade will be based on a combination of papers and class discussion. Regular attendance is important, and will be a factor in grading. There will be no exam.