

you are invited to the lecture

THE GEOCRITICAL MOMENT

DR. ROBERT T. TALLY, JR.

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Spring 2018

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

4:00—5:30PM

RED RAIDER LOUNGE (IN THE SUB)

ABSTRACT

Attention to space and place is nothing new to literary studies: For instance, setting is a key feature of almost all stories. Distinctive locales, regions, landscapes, or other pertinent geographical features are often crucial to the meaning and the effectiveness of literary works. Whole genres may be defined by such spatial or geographical characteristics, such as the pastoral poem, the travel narrative, utopia, or the urban exposé. Innumerable other examples could be cited. And yet, there is also a sense of moment or timeliness to the “spatial turn” in the humanities and social sciences, and the advent of various geocritical or spatial approaches to literary appears to be well suited to the our particular era. In this presentation, Robert T. Tally Jr. will discuss the significance of geocriticism at the present time, looking back at its critical precursors and forward to potential directions that geocritical research might take in the future. Tally argues that the geocritic’s emphasis on space, place, and mapping makes possible new ways of reading that are particularly timely and productive.

ACADEMIC BIOGRAPHY

Robert T. Tally Jr. is a professor of English at Texas State University, where he teaches American and world literature, literary theory, and criticism. Tally is the author of seven books, *Topophobia: Place, Narrative, and the Spatial Imagination* (Indiana University Press, forthcoming 2018), *Fredric Jameson: The Project of Dialectical Criticism* (Pluto, 2014), *Poe and the Subversion of American Literature: Satire, Fantasy, Critique* (Bloomsbury, 2014; named CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title 2014), *Spatiality* (Routledge, 2013), *Utopia in the Age of Globalization: Space, Representation, and the World-System* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013), *Kurt Vonnegut and the American Novel: A Postmodern Iconography* (Bloomsbury, 2011), and *Melville, Mapping and Globalization: Literary Cartography in the American Baroque Writer* (Continuum, 2009).

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