



**THE DALLAS INSTITUTE**  
OF HUMANITIES AND CULTURE

**William Faulkner's *Absalom, Absalom!***

Fall Semester 2017 - Dr. Larry Allums

Schedule of Readings

- Feb 1 Introduction. Faulkner's life and art. Discussion of Southern culture and literature. *Absalom, Absalom!* Read chapters 1-3.
- Feb 8 *Absalom, Absalom!* chapters 4-5.
- Feb 15 *Absalom, Absalom!* chapters 6-7.
- Feb 22 *Absalom, Absalom!* chapters 8-9.

Text: Vintage International, ISBN 0-679-73218-7

Tell all the Truth but tell it slant—  
*Success in Circuit lies*  
*Too bright for our infirm Delight*  
*The Truth's superb surprise.*

*As Lightening to the Children eased*  
*With explanation kind*  
*The Truth must dazzle gradually*  
*Or every man be blind—*  
--Emily Dickinson

And the king was much moved, and  
*went up to the chamber over the*  
*gate, and wept: and as he went,*  
*Thus he said, "O my son Absalom,*  
*My son, my son Absalom! I would*  
*God I had died for thee, O Absalom,*  
*my son, my son!"*

2 Samuel 18.33

William Faulkner said that understanding Thomas Sutpen is more or less a case of thirteen ways of looking at a blackbird with none of them right.... The truth, I would like to think, comes out, that when the reader has read all the thirteen different ways of looking at the blackbird, the reader has his own fourteenth image of the blackbird, which I would like to think is the truth."