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# BOOK NEWS

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Faulkner and Disability** *Exploring Constructs of Normality in Faulkner's Fiction*

**Baton Rouge**—From the emerging field of disability studies, Taylor Hagood offers the first book-length consideration of impairment in William Faulkner's life and writing. Blending biography, textual analysis, and theory in an experimental style, *Faulkner and Disability*, to be published by LSU Press in January 2015, explores in both form and content the constructs of normality and their power.

Hagood brings to light little-known and rarely discussed ways in which Faulkner's personal and familial background were marked by disability and discusses the ways the writer incorporates disability into his fiction. He reevaluates Faulkner's so-called "idiots"—Benjy Compson, Ike Snopes, and others—as characters whose narratives both satisfy and shock the reader. Hagood also examines the roles that impairment and abnormality play in texts such as the stories "The Leg" and "The Kingdom of God" and the novels *A Fable* and *Flags in the Dust*.

Highly original readings result, including new understandings of: the centrality of the visually impaired Pap in *Sanctuary*; the disability-centric social order based on interdependence in *Pylon*; and the disabled speech of Linda Snopes Kohl in *The Mansion*. Hagood argues that Faulkner's poetics are deeply invested in disability, both in promoting a disability-inclusive fictional world and in exposing and subverting the devaluation of disabled bodies and minds.

Hagood draws on firsthand knowledge of his native of Ripley, Mississippi, the ancestral home of the Faulkners, to offer readers otherwise inaccessible contextual information. Moreover, by framing each section of his study within a different kind of discourse—newspaper style, biography, email, and advertisement—he uses the very structure of the book to underscore the questions of normalcy prevalent in disability studies. This rich and unconventional study offers insight into a Faulkner haunted by experiences of disablement and compelled to narrate them in his own writing.

Florida author **Taylor Hagood** is associate professor of American literature at Florida Atlantic University and the author of *Faulkner's Imperialism: Space, Place, and the Materiality of Myth* and *Secrecy, Magic, and the One-Act Plays of Harlem Renaissance Women Playwrights*.

January 2015  
240 pages, 5½ x 8½  
978-0-8071-5726-8  
Cloth \$45.00s, ebook available  
Literary Studies / Cultural Studies

To request a review copy or set up an interview with the author,  
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