

ENG 273 African American Literature

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Prerequisites: ENG 112 or ENG 113

Corequisites: None

This course provides a survey of the development of African American literature from its beginnings to the present. Emphasis is on historical and cultural context, themes, literary traditions, and backgrounds of the authors. Upon completion, students should be able to interpret, analyze, and respond to selected texts. *This course has been approved to satisfy the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement for transferability as a pre-major and/or elective course requirement.* Course Hours Per Week: Class, 3. Semester Hours Credit, 3.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completing requirements for this course, the student will be able to:

1. Discuss African American writing in the context of literary movements and cultural history;
2. Explore the impact of history, culture, gender, race, and religion on African American writers;
3. Understand the role of oral culture in African American writing;
4. Trace the development of themes and genres in their historical context;
5. Analyze literary works for their aesthetic features and thematic patterns;
6. Understand and apply a variety of critical approaches to literature;
7. Understand critical and popular reception of African American literature;
8. Communicate critical insights about African American literature in writing and orally.

OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION:

- I. Overview of issues in African American literature
- II. Pre-Civil War literature
 - A. Political and cultural contexts
 - B. Literary characteristics
- III. 1865-1900
 - A. Political and cultural contexts
 - B. Literary characteristics
- IV. 1900-1930
 - A. Political and cultural contexts
 - B. Literary characteristics
- V. 1930 to the present
 - A. Political and cultural contexts
 - B. Literary characteristics
- VI. Selected authors and works
 - A. Biographic overview
 - B. Critical and popular reception

- C. Stylistic and thematic characteristics
- D. Contribution to American literature

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIAL:

The textbook and other instructional material will be determined by the instructor.