

COURSE DESCRIPTION  
English 251: African-American Literature

Section I

SUBJECT AREA AND COURSE NUMBER: English 251

COURSE TITLE: African-American Literature

COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION: This course introduces the African-American literary tradition. Students will read selected background works from the 18th century through the Harlem Renaissance, and will then concentrate on works of fiction and poetry by contemporary American writers of African ancestry.

LECTURE HOURS PER WEEK: 3            CREDIT PER COURSE: 3

PREREQUISITE: English 102

Section II

A. SCOPE

Students will survey events of African-American history and note how literary works interact with and reflect on that history. Primary focus in the second half of the course will be on poetry and fiction by contemporary writers, including some of Caribbean background.

B. REQUIRED WORK

Students must complete readings as assigned. Students will participate in oral presentations and will complete study questions, in-class writings, and a final exam. In addition, students will write several short essays of literary criticism.

C. ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION

Students are expected to participate in class discussions, and may be asked to confer with the teacher during prearranged conference times. In addition, the teacher is available for individual consultation during scheduled office hours.

D. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

Methods may include the following: lecture/discussion, small group tasks, student presentations, theater field trip.

### E. OBJECTIVES, OUTCOMES, and ASSESSMENT

The following objectives and outcomes represent the department's core requirements for student achievement.

<b>LEARNING OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>LEARNING OUTCOMES</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT METHODS</b>
<b>To demonstrate an understanding of</b>	<b>Student will</b>	<b>As measured by</b>
1. Responsibility for his or her own learning	a) attend class regularly and on time b) complete all assignments c) initiate any make-up work d) take responsibility for knowing, completing, and (when necessary) making up assignments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• attendance records</li> <li>• class work records</li> <li>• records of completed work</li> </ul>
2. Clear expression of ideas in effective prose	a) compose unified, effectively-developed coherent essays b) employ conventions of standard written English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• examinations</li> <li>• written assignments</li> </ul>
3. Analysis, interpretation, and evaluation of literary works	a) examine a variety of literary themes or a single theme in depth b) evaluate the effectiveness, importance, and influence of assigned literary works c) apply knowledge of historical, biographical, and critical information to works of literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• class discussions</li> <li>• oral reports</li> <li>• written assignments</li> </ul>
4. Critical thinking and global awareness	a) infer and clarify distinctions and relationships among texts b) explore controversies and multiple perspectives embedded in essays c) analyze tone, reliability, ambiguity, and evidence in texts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• discussions and exercises</li> <li>• peer reviews</li> <li>• essays</li> </ul>

F. REQUIRED TEXTS: as selected by individual instructor

G. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY Video player, CD & tape player