

Course Number: 3345-001
Course Title: African American Literature
MWF 9:00-9:50
Location: 103 Preston Hall
Credit Hours: 3

Professor: Dr. May
Office: 412 Carlisle Hall
Office Hours: Monday and Friday 1:00-3:00

Texts or Major Resources:

Norton Anthology of African American Literature; editor, Gates
Why We Can't Wait (Martin Luther King, Jr.)
Nigger: An Autobiography (Dick Gregory)
The Autobiography of Malcolm X

Course Description: African American Literature, from the Early-American Period to the Present

Course objectives:

This course is designed to familiarize students with the various texts of African American literature. We will study a number of genres throughout the semester, including slave narratives, poetry, sermons, essays and science fiction. We will study the ways by which Africans and African Americans constructed identities, a useable past, enjoyed life, and resisted oppression through literature, particularly through a variety of forms of writing.

One of the main objectives of this course in African American literature is to introduce students to writers most people know by name, but have never actually studied in depth. The goal is to provide a unique and developed perspective for people like W.E.B. Dubios, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Students should expect to take a quiz over each of the daily reading assignments. The quizzes are designed to test that you are, in fact, keeping up with the reading assignments and coming to class prepared for discussion of the text for the day.

Course Content and Schedule:

WEEK 1

Mon: (Aug. 24) Introduction to class
Wed: (Aug. 26) Introductions and discussion on the major themes
Fri: (Aug. 28) "The Beginnings of American Slavery" (Handout)

FROM SLAVERY TO FREEDOM, PART 1

WEEK 2

Mon: (Aug. 31) Venture Smith, 168-185
Wed: (Sept. 2) Harriet Jacobs, 279-315
Fri: (Sept. 4) David Walker, 227-238

WEEK 3

**Mon: (Sept. 7) LABOR DAY HOLIDAY
Wed: (Sept. 9) Frederick Douglass (*Narrative*), 385-417
Fri: (Sept. 11) Frederick Douglass (*Narrative*), 417-452

WEEK 4

Mon: (Sept 14) Frederick Douglass (*My Bondage*), 452-461
Wed: (Sept. 16) Maria Stewart, 249-255
Fri: (Sept. 18) Booker T. Washington, 570-602

WEEK 5

Mon: (Sept. 21) W.E.B. Dubois, 686-689, 692-714
Wed: (Sept. 23) Film Day
Fri: (Sept. 25) **EXAM #1

SLAVERY TO FREEDOM, PART 2: ART AND AUTOBIOGRAPHY

WEEK 6

Mon: (Sept. 28) Martin Luther King, Jr., Chapters 1-4
Wed: (Sept. 30) Martin Luther King, Jr., Chapters 5-7
Fri: (Oct. 2) Martin Luther King, Jr., Chapters 8-Afterward

WEEK 7

Mon: (Oct. 5) Dick Gregory, (Part 1, "Not poor, Just Broke")
Wed: (Oct. 7) Dick Gregory, (Part 2, "...and they didn't...")
Fri: (Oct. 9) Dick Gregory, (Part 3, "One Less Door")

WEEK 8

Mon: (Oct. 12) Malcolm X, Chapters 1-4
Wed: (Oct. 14) Malcolm X, Chapters 5-8
Fri: (Oct. 16) Malcolm X, Chapters 9-12

WEEK 9

Mon: (Oct. 19) Malcolm X, Chapters 13-16
Wed: (Oct. 21) Malcolm X, Chapters 17-end
Fri: (Oct. 23) **EXAM #2

THE BLACK POETS

WEEK 10

Mon: (Oct. 26) Phillis Wheatley, 213-226
Wed: (Oct. 28) Paul Laurence Dunbar, 905-928
**Fri: (Oct. 30) Claude McKay, 1003-1019
(Last Day to Drop Classes)

WEEK 11

Mon: (Nov. 2) **NO CLASS TODAY
Wed: (Nov. 4) Langston Hughes, 1288-1311
Fri: (Nov. 6) Gwendolyn Brooks, 1623-1649

WEEK 12

Mon: (Nov. 9) Haki R. Madhubuti, 2090-2096
Wed: (Nov. 11) Carolyn M. Rodgers, 2122-2126
Fri: (Nov. 13) Quincy Troupe, 2118-2122

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

WEEK 13

Mon: (Nov. 16) Percival Everett, (Handout)
Wed: (Nov. 18) Emily Raboteau, (Handout)
Fri: (Nov. 20) David Bradley, (Handout)

WEEK 14

Mon: (Nov. 23) Henry Dumas, (Handout)
Wed: (Nov. 25) Writing Workshop Day
**Papers due to be turned in by midnight
via WebCT**

**Fri: (Nov. 27) THANKSGIVING BREAK

WEEK 15

Mon: (Nov. 30) Steven Barnes (Handout)
Wed: (Dec. 2) Film Day
Fri: (Dec. 4) **LAST DAY OF CLASS: REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM**

QUIZZES: Each class there will be a quiz over the material to be discussed for the day. The average for the quizzes will make up 30% of your final grade.

EXAMS: Examinations will each be worth 40% of your final grade. The final exam will be over the readings in the last two sections of the syllabus ("The Black Poets" and "Where Do We Go From Here?").

ESSAY: During the course of the semester, students will be assigned a paper that will be on some topic related to the content of the course. The specifics of the essay assignment will be covered in the class and during conference meetings with the professor.

Grades:

Participation 10%

Quizzes 30%

3 Exams 40%

1 Essay 20%

ATTENDANCE: Regular attendance is expected. You are allowed Four (4) absences. After four absences, you will be awarded a grade of “F”. All reading assignments will be due on the day that they are listed on the syllabus. Late papers and other assignments will not be accepted for credit. If you arrive in class unprepared (i.e. not having read the assignment for the day) you will be awarded a grade of zero (0) for the day, which will be calculated into your average as part of participation. Also, once class begins, the door will be locked and anyone arriving late will not be allowed to enter the class that day.

OFFICE POLICY: If you find that you are having difficulty with understanding course content, please feel free to visit me during my office hours. I want you to think of my office as an extension of the classroom to be used to address any concerns you have about the course. If need be, we can set up times to conference if the posted hours are inconvenient.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: The University of Texas at Arlington encourages qualified persons with disabilities to participate in its academic programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation in this course or have questions about physical access, please contact me, the instructor, as soon as possible. You may also contact the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) at: Phone 817.272.3364 or email OSD at osd@uta.edu