

Spring Semester 2007  
English 680-345  
African American Literature Survey  
Moore

Office Hours: T/TH 10-11 a.m.  
Wednesdays 4-6p.m.  
Office Ext: 5059  
Office: 449 Heide Hall

**Prerequisites:** English 101 and 102

**Textbook Rental:**

Gates, Henry Louis and Nellie Y. McKay, General Eds. **THE NORTON ANTHOLOGY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE.**

Rothenberg, Paula S. Ed. **RACE, CLASS AND GENDER IN THE U.S.**

**Primary Books:**

Morrison, Toni. **Beloved.**

Wright, Richard, **Native Son (Harper Perennial Modern Classics Edition 2005)**

#### **COURSE OBJECTIVE:**

Since African American literature doubles as American and African American history, students will study and analyze the ontological struggles of black Americans over a period of 300 years, beginning with slavery and progressing to the eras of abolition and emancipation, Jim Crow and the Civil Rights Movement and onto the period of postmodernism. Capturing the historical condition of black Americans in their literature and their times, selected authors (ranging from Phillis Wheatley, Frederick Douglass and Harriet Jacobs to W.E.B. Du Bois, Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, Richard Wright, Toni Morrison, etc.) richly portray and graphically illustrate the redefining moments in the violence of American history when black men and black women came to terms with their struggles and established their revolutionary and artistic, social and spiritual quest for the rights to self definition and self affirmation. A variety of genres will be studied (slave narratives, novels, poems, essays, etc.), and theoretical concepts will be applied to the shifts that occur in this literature over time, as we recognize the major changes of the authors' time, which influenced the philosophical-political nature of their literature. We will begin our study with a look at the PBS Series **Africans in America**, focusing on the tragic transformation of Africans from a state of freedom to a condition of slavery in America, and from there we will proceed to study the African American emergence in American society as represented in literature **and** in film.

#### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

**Students are expected to attend class on a regular basis, of course. More than three unexcused absences, however, could result in a lowering of the final grade. Three or more absences for evening students will result in expulsion from the course. Students who plagiarize papers will be given a mark of F for the course.**

## ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING POLICY

There will be a Mid-Term Exam, a Final Exam, and a 10 to 12-page Term Paper with MLA-style documentation. The Mid-Term and Final examinations are worth 60% of the student's final grade, and the Term Paper is worth 30%. Group Presentations will count for the final 10% of the total grade. Graduate Students are expected to lead all Group Presentations and Discussions and to write a 20 to 25-page Research Paper. Late papers are not accepted.

## PLEASE NOTE

The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater is dedicated to a safe, supportive and non-discriminatory learning environment. It is the responsibility of all undergraduate and graduate students to familiarize themselves with University policies regarding Special Accommodations, Misconduct, Religious Beliefs Accommodation, Discrimination and Absence for University Sponsored Events. For details, please refer to the Undergraduate and Graduate Timetables, the "Rights and Responsibilities" section of the Undergraduate Bulletin; the Academic Requirements and Policies and the Facilities and Services sections of the Graduate Bulletin; and the "Student Academic Disciplinary Procedures" (UWS Chapter 14); and the "Student Nonacademic Disciplinary Procedures" (UWS Chapter 17).

## COURSE OUTLINE (Beginning of Week for Wednesday Evening Class)

WEEK ONE of January 22

INTRODUCTION

PBS Series: Africans in America, Part I

WEEK TWO-January 29

in Rothenberg, "Racial Formations"  
"Domination and Subordination"  
"The 'Three-Fifths Compromise'"  
"The Black Codes"  
"Plessy v. Ferguson, 1896"

WEEK THREE-February 5

NORTON ANTHOLOGY

\*\*\*Phillis Wheatley "On Being Brought From Africa to America" 171  
"On the Death of the Rev. Mr. George Whitefield" 171  
Harriet Jacobs, "Incidents" 209-245  
Geneva Cobb Moore, "A Freudian Reading of Harriet Jacobs' Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl"  
Frederick Douglass, "Narrative of the Life..." 302-369

WEEK FOUR-February 12	*Group Presentations I - The Abolitionists Toni Morrison, <i>Beloved</i>
WEEK FIVE-February 19	Toni Morrison, <i>Beloved</i>
WEEK SIX-February 26	MID-TERM EXAMINATION Part I- Short Answers Part II- Essay
WEEK SEVEN-March 5	Charlotte Forten Grimke, <i>Journals One and Two</i> , 474-488 *Group Presentations II - The New England Schoolmarm Booker T. Washington, <i>Up From Slavery</i> 490-521
WEEK EIGHT-March 12	(Video) GLORY NORTON ANTHOLOGY W.E.B. DuBois "The Souls of Black Folk" 613- Chapters 1,2,3,4, and 11 Paul Laurence Dunbar, "We Wear the Mask" 896 and "Douglass" 903
WEEK NINE-March 19	NORTON ANTHOLOGY James Weldon Johnson, <i>The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man</i> " 777-861 *Group Presentations III - Racial Passing in the Early Twentieth Century RESEARCH PAPER ASSIGNMENTS
WEEK TEN -March 26	SPRING BREAK
WEEK ELEVEN -April 2	THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE Alain Locke, "The New Negro" 961-970 DuBois, "Criteria of Negro Art" 752 Jean Toomer, "Cane" 1089-1170 Zora Neale Hurston, from "Their Eyes Were Watching God" 1041 Nella Larsen, from "Quicksand" 1066, Jessie Fauset, from "Plum Bun" 952

**WEEK TWELVE –April 9**

Countee Cullen, “Yet Do I Marvel”  
1305, “Heritage” 1311  
Claude McKay, “If We Must Die” 984  
Langston Hughes  
“The Negro Artist and the Racial  
Mountain” 1267-1271  
“The Negro Speaks of Rivers” 1254  
“Mother to Son” 1254  
“Danse Africaine” 1255  
“When Sue Wears Red” 1256  
“The Weary Blues” 1257  
“I Too” 1258  
“Harlem” 1267  
“The Big Sea” 1282-  
“Best of Simple” 1297-  
Richard Wright, “The Ethics of  
Living Jim Crow” 1388-

**WEEK THIRTEEN- April 16**

Richard Wright, NATIVE SON

**WEEK FOURTEEN-April 23**

Richard Wright, NATIVE SON  
Irving Howe, “Black Boys and Native  
Sons” (Library Reserve)  
Ralph Ellison, from INVISIBLE MAN  
1518, James Baldwin “Notes of a  
Native Son” 1679 and “Price of the  
Ticket” (video)

**WEEK FIFTEEN –April 30**

Martin Luther King, “Letter from a  
Birmingham Jail” 1854  
The Civil Rights Movement  
TERM PAPER DUE

**WEEK SIXTEEN –May 7**

Lorraine Hansberry, “A Raisin in the  
Sun” 1728 and Alice Walker, from *The  
Color Purple* 2405  
\*Group Presentations IV  
“Feminist and Maternal Ethics”  
FINAL EXAMINATION REVIEW

\*\*\*Although Phillis Wheatley comes before the period of literature under review, we will examine some of her poetry to gain insight into the early beginning of black American literature.

