

Professor: Nettye G. Goddard

DeAnza College

WINTER 2009

Classes:	Days	Time	Room
	T - Th	1:30PM – 3:10PM	MCC-15

CONTENT: This class provides a comprehensive and an intensive examination of selected literature by African American authors. We will read, discuss, and analyze this literature toward the end of defining African American culture in the United States.

OBJECTIVE: The main objective of this class is to discover what and how African American writers tell us about being black in America.

A second objective requires students to learn the elements of fiction and poetry as well as the criteria for critical thinking.

A third objective requires us to identify an African American cultural idiom that permeates American society and the rest of the world.

A fourth objective requires us to identify cohering themes of African American literature.

REQUIREMENTS: Students will:

- Read all assignments
- Write short essays and group assignments on selected books
- TAKE A MIDTERM ESSAY EXAM
- Prepare oral reports
- Prepare a major written report of a group assignment
- TAKE A FINAL ESSAY EXAM

All essays and group presentations due on Thursday

<u>GRADES:</u>	Short Essays	20%
	ONE MIDTERM	15%
	Oral/written Report	20%
	FINAL EXAM	25%
	Class Participation	20%

OFFICE HOURS: **Tuesdays, 1:00PM -1:30PM in the Writing Center**

ABSENCES AND TARDINESS:

Three successive absences mean an automatic drop.

Three absences in any order mean a drop.

Be on time. Class starts promptly at 1:40 PM.

NO LATE PAPERS. DO NOT PLAGIARIZE - I know it when I see it.

Last day of class: March 28

Final exam: March 25

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*TENTATIVE SCHEDULE***WEEK ONE: January 6 - 8**

Introductions
 Overview of the Course
 Your expectations/My expectations
 Class design
 Examination of kinds and characteristics of African American writers, influences of early literature and writers upon contemporary African American writers.

Review of: Kinds of literature
 Characteristics of fiction poetry, drama

Black idiom/Black language
 Blues and Jazz

Assignment for WEEK TWO:

In Hand Out, read pp 1-30
 In *African American Literature* read pp xxi - 115

WEEK TWO: January 13 - 15

Lecture and class discussion on assigned readings

Assignment for WEEK THREE:

In *Hip Hop Generation*, read the entire pp 1 - 30
 Writing assignment, p. 116 in *African American Literature*

Writing Assignment

WEEK THREE: January 20 - 22

Discussion: Examining early African American literature; comparing and contrasting early writers with contemporary writers, discussing elements of fiction, analyzing literature, effective writing.

Essay Due

Assignment for WEEK FOUR:

In *Bling*; read the entire book
 In *Hip Hop Generation* read pp 121 – 144
 In Hand Out – Reread all material

WEEK FOUR: January 27 - 29

Lecture and discussion: Black language, blues, jazz, Ellison's use of the black idiom, symbolism, naming; precursors to Hip Hop and Rap

Group Assignment due
 Meaning of Ellison's names

Assignment for WEEK FIVE:

In *Their Eyes Were Watching God*; read the entire book
 Review characteristics of Black dialect/language

WEEK FIVE: February 3 - 5

Discussion: Their Eyes Were Watching God; new ideas in Hurston's literature; symbolism; voodoo; women's portrayal in African American literature.

Group presentations: Role play scene from Hurston

Assignment for WEEK SIX:

Begin reading *Beloved*

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WEEK SIX: February 10 - 12

Tuesday: Review everything from Week One to present

MID TERM

Assignment for WEEK SEVEN:

Finish reading *Beloved*

WEEK SEVEN: February 17 - 19

Discussion: Black literary criticism, *Beloved*; slavery

Essay due

Assignment for WEEK EIGHT:

August Wilson's "Fences"

In *African American Literature* read pp 145 – 215

WEEK EIGHT: February 24 - 26

Discussion and reading from Wilson's play.

Group presentations: Scenes from Wilson's "Fences"

Assignment for WEEK NINE:

McMillan's *A Day Late and a Dollar Short*; read the entire book

WEEK NINE: March 3 - 5

Discuss McMillan's writing; compare and contrast with other writers; early writers - male writers

Discuss critical theory

Essay due

Assignment for WEEK TEN:

Lori Park's *Top Dog/Under Dog*; read the entire book

Review

WEEK TEN: March 10 - 12

Read aloud *Top Dog/Under Dog*

Discuss Black language/idiom

Read Langston Hughes' poetry; Rap lyrics

Assignment for WEEK ELEVEN:

Review *Top Dog/Under Dog*

Review *The Hip Hop Generation*

Review African American literary traditions; representative writers; characters

WEEK TWELVE: March 17 - 19

Review - Discussion

Essay

FINAL EXAMINATION – TBA