

COURSE OUTLINE
ENGL-206
African-American Literature
3 Credits

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

African American Literature studies oral and written stories of African-American writers from the 18th century through the Harlem Renaissance to present times, including authors such as Zora Neale Hurston, Langston Hughes, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Students analyze major themes like alienation, identity, double-consciousness, racism, classism, rebellion, revolt and escape. They both evaluate these works for their literary merit and make connections between the literature and their own experience. This course is writing intensive. Prerequisite: ENGL-121. (3 hours weekly)

Statement on General Education and Liberal Learning

A liberal education prepares students to lead ethical, productive, and creative lives and to understand how the pursuit of lifelong learning and critical thinking fosters good citizenship. General education courses form the core of a liberal education within the higher education curriculum and provide a coherent intellectual experience for all students by introducing the fundamental concepts and methods of inquiry in the areas of mathematics, the physical and natural sciences, the social sciences, the arts and the humanities, and composition. This course is part of the general education core experience at Howard Community College.

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Recognize literary terms, concepts, critical strategies and stylistic characters in the texts studied.
2. Demonstrate critical and independent thinking in the interpretation of texts.
3. Write analytically about literary works, using appropriate research and documentation.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of ways the literature studied reflects its intellectual, social, historical, and cultural contexts.
5. Evaluate the power of literature to address personal values and goals and to challenge human endeavors.
6. Examine the place of African American Literature within canons of American Literature.

Major Topics

- I. Beginning to the Civil War
 - A. Poetry
 - B. Essays
 - C. Autobiography/Slave Narratives
 - D. Spirituals
- II. The Civil War to World War II
 - A. Essays
 - B. Folklore: Tale, Song, Sermon
 - C. Poetry
 - D. Autobiography

- III. World War I to World War II
 - A. The Harlem Renaissance
 - Poetry
 - Essays
 - B. The Novel
- IV. The 1940's to 1970
 - A. Poetry
 - B. Essays
- V. 1970 to the present
 - A. Poetry
 - B. Drama
 - C. The Novel

Course Requirements

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but may include exams, papers and class participation. Specific writing assignments will require at least 2,500 words of formal academic writing, as well as informal in-class assignments to explore ideas and respond to class materials.

Other Course Information

This course is a Literature and Humanities core course and a Humanities, English, and Arts and Sciences elective.