

Course Abstract

If you need accommodations due to a disability, contact Disability Services in Edison Hall Room 100, 732.906.2546.

To foster a productive learning environment, the College requires that all students adhere to the Code of Student Conduct which is published in the college catalog and website.

Course ID and Name: ENG 227: Literature of Black America

Department: English

Chairperson or Course Coordinator: Michael Nester

Office Location: RH 236

E-mail Address: MNester@middlesexcc.edu

Telephone: 732.548.6000 x3585

Prerequisites: ENG 122 or 125 or permission of the department chairperson

Co-requisites:

Course Description: The literature of the black American from African and Pre-Civil War songs and tales to the writers of the Reconstruction, the early 1900's, the Harlem renaissance, the WPA Writers-Workshop, and the new black writers of the 1990's.

General Education Status: Humanities, Diversity

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Lab Hours: 0

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the program or course, students will be able to:

1. Interpret and analyze literature and justify their responses orally and in writing.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the formal features of literary texts and a knowledge of contexts.
3. Demonstrate the ability to paraphrase, summarize, and respond to texts by composing, through a series of drafts, coherent, persuasive, developed, and grammatical essays; compose research papers demonstrating the ability to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize source materials and to cite this information correctly.
4. Become acquainted with the principle authors and writings of the five major periods of the literature of Black America: Pioneer Writers (1700-1830); Freedom Fighters (1830-1865); Advocates of Accommodation and Protest (1865-1910); Writers of the New Negro Renaissance (1910-1958); Advocates of Integration vs. Black Nationalism (1950-present).
5. Be able to describe the evolution of the literature of Black America and to define its relationship to the larger body of American literature.
6. Discuss the importance of global perspectives and diverse peoples.

Course Content Areas:

1. **Research and writing:** Two research essays based on primary and secondary sources and using most recent MLA documentation style. A midterm and final examination requiring the writing of essays that make close reference to the literature studied.

2. **Reading:** Major works of African-American literature from five periods: Pioneer Writers (1700-1830), such as Wheatley, Hammon, Brown, and Séjour; Freedom Fighters (1830-1865), such as Douglass and Jacobs; Advocates of Accommodation and Protest (1865-1910), such as Du Bois, Washington, and Garvey; Writers of the New Negro Renaissance (1910-1958), such as Cullen, Hughes, Hurston, Wright, Ellison, and Baldwin; and Advocates of Integration vs. Black Nationalism (1950-present), such as Brooks, Giovanni, Hansberry, King, Baraka, Morrison, Kincaid, Bambara. Walker, Angelou, and Haley.

3. Lecture/Discussion:

- a. Major literary, intellectual, cultural and historical developments, movements, and trends as seen in African-American literature from 1700 to the present.
- b. Genres, themes, character types, motifs, archetypes and/or other basic concerns important to a basic but adequate understanding and appreciation of the literature under consideration.
- c. Literary devices such as plot, theme, point of view, character development, tone, setting, prosody and/or figurative language to the degree that each affects the literature in which it is found.