



El Camino College
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD – Official

Course Acronym:	ENGL
Course Number:	43
Descriptive Title:	African American Literature
Division:	Humanities
Department:	English
Course Disciplines:	English, Ethnic Studies
Catalog Description:	This course provides a chronological and thematic survey of African American literature. Students will read and discuss representative works by African American writers. Emphasis will be on classic and contemporary literature.
Prerequisite:	
Co-requisite:	
Recommended Preparation:	Eligibility for English 1A
Enrollment Limitation:	
Hours Lecture (per week):	3
Hours Laboratory (per week):	0
Outside Study Hours:	6
Total Course Hours:	54
Course Units:	3
Grading Method:	Letter Grade only
Credit Status:	Credit, degree applicable
Transfer CSU:	Yes
Effective Date:	Prior to 1992
Transfer UC:	Yes
Effective Date:	Prior to 1992
General Education: ECC	Area 3 - Humanities
Term:	
Other:	
CSU GE:	Area C2 - Arts and Humanities - Humanities: Literature, Philosophy, Languages other than English
Term:	
Other:	
IGETC:	Area 3B - Humanities

	Term:
	Other:
Student Learning Outcomes:	<p>SLO #1</p> <p>Analyze representative works of African American literature in terms of historical progression.</p> <p>SLO #2</p> <p>Analyze representative works of African American literature in terms of cultural, regional, and ethnic considerations.</p> <p>SLO #3</p> <p>Analyze representative works of African American literature in terms of unifying themes and motifs.</p> <p>SLO #4</p> <p>Assess how African-American literature relates to society as a whole and/or how it relates to other literature of the dominant culture.</p>
Course Objectives:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyze and evaluate African American literature through poetry, drama, and prose writings of different types and lengths. 2. Examine and discuss characteristics and themes within African American literature. 3. Analyze and evaluate works by prose writers, poets, and dramatists of African American origins. 4. Research and assess African American writers' contributions to American literature and society. 5. Identify and define significant cultural aspects of African Americans through African American literature, lectures, television programs, and films. 6. Examine experiences of African Americans in the United States through a variety of African American literature and visual media. 7. Contrast the experiences of African Americans with those of the dominant culture through African American literature, lectures, and films.
Major Topics:	<p>I. Course Introduction (3 hours, lecture)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Course objectives B. Significance of African American literature and social experiences C. General characteristics of African American literature <p>II. Background Material on African American Literature (6 hours, lecture)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Historical Contexts B. Cultural Contexts C. Social Movements D. Literary Movements <p>III. The Elements of African American Poetry (9 hours, lecture)</p>

- A. Historical Contexts
- B. Cultural Contexts
- C. Social/Political Issues
- D. Literary Characteristics
- E. Themes
- F. Style

IV. The Elements of African American Fiction (9 hours, lecture)

- A. Historical Contexts
- B. Cultural Contexts
- C. Social/Political Issues
- D. Literary Characteristics
- E. Themes
- F. Style

V. The Elements of African American Non-Fiction (9 hours, lecture)

- A. Historical Contexts
- B. Cultural Contexts
- C. Social/Political Issues
- D. Literary Characteristics
- E. Themes
- F. Style

VI. Critical Theory with Application to African American Literature (9 hours, lecture)

- A. Antebellum Literature
 - 1. Historical Criticism
 - 2. Biographical Criticism
- B. Slave Narratives
 - 1. Historical Criticism
 - 2. Biographical Criticism
- C. Reconstruction-Era Literature
 - 1. Historical Criticism
 - 2. Biographical Criticism
- D. Harlem Renaissance
 - 1. Historical Criticism
 - 2. Biographical Criticism
- E. Mid-20th Century Literature
 - 1. Historical Criticism
 - 2. Biographical Criticism
- F. Contemporary Literature
 - 1. Historical Criticism
 - 2. Biographical Criticism

VII. Textual Analysis of the Presentation of African Americans in Longer Selected Works, including (9 hours, lecture)

- A. Portrayal of African American Characters
- B. African American Themes

	C. African American Imagery and Symbolism
Total Lecture Hours:	54
Total Laboratory Hours:	0
Total Hours:	54
Primary Method of Evaluation:	1) Substantial writing assignments
Typical Assignment Using Primary Method of Evaluation:	Write a four-page essay using four of the texts we have read. Pick one literary element, theme, idea, or concept and compare its treatment in the four texts. The essay should be organized and use examples from the texts.
Critical Thinking Assignment 1:	Write a four- to five-page essay comparing and contrasting literature from the Renaissance and Realist periods. In your essay, consider the cultural context of the periods and how those contexts might contribute to an author's ideas. Organize your argument carefully, and present specific evidence from multiple texts within each period to support your argument.
Critical Thinking Assignment 2:	Write a four- to five-page essay that examines the role of narrator across the three periods we have discussed this semester. How have writers' approaches to the narrator changed? What have been the results, implications, or causes for the change? Organize your argument carefully, and present specific evidence from multiple texts within each period to support your argument.
Other Evaluation Methods:	Essay Exams, Matching Items, Multiple Choice, Presentation, Quizzes, Term or Other Papers, True/False, Written Homework
Instructional Methods:	Discussion, Group Activities, Lecture, Multimedia presentations
If other:	
Work Outside of Class:	Answer questions, Required reading, Study, Written work (such as essay/composition/report/analysis/research)
If Other:	
Up-To-Date Representative Textbooks:	<p>Gates, Henry Louis, and Valerie A. Smith. <i>Norton Anthology of African American Literature</i>. 3rd ed. Norton Press, 2014. (Discipline Standard)</p> <p>Malcolm X. <i>The Autobiography of Malcolm X</i>. Penguin Modern Classics, 2010. (Discipline Standard)</p> <p>Woodson, Jacqueline. <i>Before the Ever After</i>. Nancy Paulson Books, 2022.</p> <p>Whitehead, Colson. <i>The Underground Railroad</i>. Doubleday, 2016. (Discipline Standard)</p> <p>Lorde, Audre. <i>Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches</i>. Crossing Press, 2007. (Discipline Standard)</p> <p>Mosley, Walter. <i>Devil in a Blue Dress</i>, 30th anniversary edition. Washington Square Press, 2020.</p> <p>Hansberry, Lorraine. <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i>. 30th Anniversary ed. Samuel French, 1987. (Discipline Standard)</p>

	Wilson, August. <i>Fences</i> . 1st ed. Samuel French, 1986. *discipline standard Baldwin, James. <i>Go Tell it on the Mountain</i> . Vintage International, 2013. (Discipline Standard)
Alternative Textbooks:	
Required Supplementary Readings:	Articles or stories in magazines, newspapers, or books that pertain to African American literature or related topics. One full-length novel related to African American literature.
Other Required Materials:	
Requisite:	
Category:	
Requisite course(s): List both prerequisites and corequisites in this box.	
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	
Requisite Skill and Matching Skill(s): Bold the requisite skill(s). If applicable	
Requisite course:	
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	Eligibility for English 1A
Requisite Skill and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s). If applicable	This course involves reading college level textbooks, developing projects, and answering essay questions. A student's success in this class will be enhanced if they have these skills. Summarize, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize college-level texts. Write a well-reasoned, well-supported expository essay that demonstrates application of the academic writing process.
Enrollment Limitations and Category:	
Enrollment Limitations Impact:	
Course Created by:	E. Coady, N. Fordyce, J. Hartley, F. Milstein & K. O'Brien

Date:	04/01/1969
Original Board Approval Date:	
Last Reviewed and/or Revised by:	Christopher Glover
Date:	03/13/2023
Last Board Approval Date:	07/17/2023 effective FALL 2024