

DeAnza College

SPRING 2009

Classes:DaysTimeRoom

T - Th

1:30PM – 3:10PM

MCC-17

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

GRADES:

Short Essays	20%
ONE MIDTERM	15%
Oral/written Report	20%
FINAL EXAM	25%
Class Participation	20%

BOOKLIST:TITLE:AUTHOR:

Bling	Erica Kennedy
Invisible Man	Ralph Ellison
Beloved	Toni Morrison
Their Eyes Were Watching God	Zora Neale Hurston
Fences (a play)	August Wilson
A Day Late and a Dollar Short	Terry McMillan
Top Dog, Under Dog (a play)	Suzan Lori Parks

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 1:30 PM.

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

IMPORTANT DATES:

First day of Spring Quarter	April 6
Last day to add quarter-length classes	April 18
Last day to add CAOS and Skills self-paced classes	June 12
Last day to drop for a refund for out-of-state or foreign students	April 10
Last day to drop for a refund for resident students	April 18
Last day to drop a class with no record of grade	April 25
Last day to request P/NP grade	May 1
Last day to drop with a "W"	May 29
Memorial Day Weekend (college closed)	May 23-25
Final Exams	to be announced
Last day to file for a spring degree or certificate	June 26
Graduation	June 27
Last day of Spring Quarter	June 26
First day of Summer Session	June 29

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

WEEK ONE: April 7 - 9

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: April 14 - 16

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: April 21 - 23**

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: April 28 - 30

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: May 5 - 7

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*

WEEK SIX: May 12 - 14

Tuesday: Review everything from Week One to present

MID TERM

Assignment for WEEK SEVEN:

Finish reading *Beloved*

WEEK SEVEN: May 19 - 21

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: May 26 - 28

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: June 2 - 4

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: June 9 - 11

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 ELEVEN: June 16 - 18

Review - Discussion

Essay

FINAL EXAMINATION – TBA