Course Description

Examines selected works by black American writers from the Harlem Renaissance to the present. Involves critical reading and writing. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

This course is designed to expose the student to a broad range of works by African Americans from the Harlem Renaissance to the present and analyze African American literature and art as an important part of American culture.

Course Prerequisites/Co-requisites

Prerequisite: ENG 112 or ENG 125 or equivalent or division approval.

Course Objectives

GOAL ONE: African American literature as an aspect of human experience
ENG 254 will demonstrate the merits of African American literature from the time period. By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- identify incomplete and narrow interpretations of African American art;
- recognize how adversities faced by African Americans have helped to produce a wide range of artistic expression.

GOAL TWO: Characteristics of African American literature
ENG 254 will introduce students to the specific forms and conventions of African American literature. By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- identify and explain the literary characteristics of writings by African American authors from the Harlem Renaissance to the present.

GOAL THREE: Analysis of literature
ENG 254 students will improve their ability to assess literature. By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- show how their critical reading and writing skills have improved by scrutinizing and evaluating a selection of literary works by African Americans;
- use literary terminology to discuss the various themes of literary works.

GOAL FOUR: Relevance of African American literature to American and world culture
ENG 254 will demonstrate the connections between a culture and the literature it produces. By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- study literary texts for content, structure, and style specific to the time of creation;
- explore the ways that African American literature connects to African American, American, and world history.

Major Topics to be Included

Realism/Modernism/Naturalism
Literature of the Black Arts Movement
African American women poets
Contemporary African American literature