

**NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY
ENG 253 – SURVEY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE I (3 CR.)**

Course Description

Examines selected works by African American writers from the colonial period to the Harlem Renaissance. Involves critical reading and thinking. 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 colonial times to the Harlem Renaissance 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: Exposure to and appreciation of African American literature

ENG 253 teaches the unique subject matter and impact of African American literature from the time period. By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- identify the social, political, and racial challenges unique to African Americans in America;
- challenge traditionally inaccurate views of African American literature.

GOAL TWO: Characteristics of African American literature

ENG 253 will introduce students to the specific forms and conventions of African American literature. By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- define and provide examples of the literary characteristics, including vernacular language as well as musical and spiritual influences, of works by African American authors from the colonial period to the Harlem Renaissance;

GOAL THREE: Analysis of literature

ENG 253 students will improve their ability to analyze literature. By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- demonstrate critical thinking, reading, and writing skills by analyzing a variety of African American literary and artistic themes;
- use literary terminology to analyze works of literature and art.

GOAL FOUR: Relevance of African American literature to American culture

ENG 253 will demonstrate the connections between a culture and the literature it produces. By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- evaluate the relationship between form and content in literature;
- evaluate the connections between historical and political events and concurrent literature.

Major Topics to be Included

Vernacular traditions
Slavery and freedom
Reconstruction
Harlem Renaissance