This course surveys literature produced by African American writers during the twentieth century, beginning after the Harlem Renaissance and moving into contemporary literature. We will address various literary genres, including prose, poetry, and drama. Through lecture and class discussion, we will discuss such topics as: What constitutes African American literature? What is the relationship between historical context and literary production?

Required Text: *The Norton Anthology of African American Literature*

Requirements: **Attendance is mandatory.** It is the English Department’s policy to fail any student who misses more than 20% of scheduled classes (6 sessions). Absences also affect participation grades, as one cannot participate when one is not in class. **Participation** grades are determined not only by attendance, but also by contributions to class and small group discussions. (In other words, you will not receive an A in participation just because you attend every class—you must add to the discussion.) There will be **study questions** or short written responses assigned on a weekly basis. Study questions or reading responses must be typed. **A 7-10 minute oral report** is required. Students will select a poem to interpret and present to the class in the form of a mini-lecture and/or guided discussion—class interaction is desired. Oral Reports are due as scheduled on the sign up sheet. You must be present on your assigned day. **Two 5-7 page essays** will be assigned. Essays must be typed according to MLA requirements (see attached example). Secondary sources are not required. Essays less than 5 full pages will be severely docked. No late assignments will be graded, but all essays and the oral report must be completed to pass the class. The course will include **two noncomprehensive exams. Pop quizzes** are always possible.

Grading Distribution: Participation--5%, Oral Report--5%, Study questions & quizzes--10%, Essays--20% each, and Exams 20% each. For your information, see attached grading standards.

Reading & Assignment schedule: Come to class with that day’s reading already completed. All assignments are due at the beginning of class.
The Syllabus is Subject to Revision.

1/11 Introduction & Black Is Black Ain’t
1/13 Wright 1376-88 & “Almos A Man” Video
1/18 Wright 1397-50 & Tolson 1328-30 Tolson Report
1/20 Himes 1467-76 & Petry 1476-84
1/25 Hayden 1497-1515 Hayden Reports
1/27 Ellison 1515-1540

2/1 Essay Proposal Due, M. Walker 1571-76 M. Walker Reports
2/3 Brooks 1577-80,1591-93 Brooks Reports
2/8 Brooks 1602-50
2/10 Rough Draft Due for Draft Workshop
2/15 First Essay Due & Kaufman 1717-25 Kaufman Report
2/17 Baldwin 1650-4, 1659-70 & 1694-1717
2/22 Review for Midterm Evans 1806-1808 Evans Reports
2/24 Midterm
2/29 Hansberry 1725-89
3/2 Knight 1866-69, Baraka 1877-84 Baraka & Knight Reports
3/7 Baraka 1885-1902
3/9 Gayle 1869-77, Sanchez 1902-6 & Neal 1959-72 Sanchez Report

3/14 SPRING BREAK—NO CLASS

3/16 SPRING BREAK—NO CLASS

3/23 NO CLASS
3/28 Essay Proposal Due Guest Speaker—Dadisi Sanyika (African Drumming)
3/30 Angelou 2037-2040 & Lorde 2203-9 Angelou & Lorde Reports (begin reading Morrison 2094-2149—we will have some discussion of the opening chapters)
4/4 Morrison 2149-2180
4/6 Gaines 2180-2202, Clifton 2219-20, 2223-7 Clifton Reports
4/13 Harper 2275-76, 2280, Bambara 2305-13 & Williams 2361-75 Harper & Williams Reports
4/20 A. Walker 2375-80, 2387-94, Coleman 2472-73, 2477 & Butler 2479-94 A. Walker & Coleman Reports
4/25 Review, Shange 2518-24 & Dove 2582-86 Shange & Dove Reports

4/27 NO CLASS—STUDY FOR FINAL

Final Exam: will be Thursday, May 4th from 10:00am-12:00pm in this room.
Reminder: The Writing Assistance Center is available for help with your writing projects. This is a free service. Students may walk in, but appointments are encouraged. Call 472-8803 for more information.
1/18  Tolson “An Ex-Judge at the Bar” 1330

  Tolson “A Legend of Versailles” 1334

1/25  Hayden “O Daedalus, Fly Away Home” 1505-6

  Hayden “Runagate Runagate” 1506-8

  Hayden “El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz (Malcolm X) 1512-13

2/1   M. Walker “For My People” 1572-73

  M. Walker “Prophets for a New Day” 1575-76

2/3   Brooks “a song in the front yard” 1580

  Brooks “kitchenette building” 1579

2/15  Kaufman “Walking Parker Home” 1718

  Kaufman “Unanimity Has Been Achieved, Not a Dot Less for Its Accidentalness” 1723-24

  Kaufman “War Memoir: Jazz, Don’t Listen to It at Your Own Risk” 1725

2/22  Evans “Status Symbol”

  Evans “I Am a Black Woman” 1808
3/2  Baraka “A Poem for Black Hearts” 1881
   Knight “For Black Poets Who Think of Suicide” 1869
3/9  Sanchez “Summer Words of a Sistuh Addict” 1905
3/21 Madhubuti “The Long Reality”
   Madhubuti “Malcolm Spoke/ who listened?”
   Giovanni “For Saundra” 1983
3/28 Angelou “Still I Rise” 2039-2040
   Angelou “My Arkansas” 2040
   Lorde “Coal” 2207
   Lorde “A Litany for Survival” 2208-9
   Lorde “The Evening News” 2209
4/6  Clifton “homage to my hips” 2223-24
   Clifton “move” 2226-7
4/11 Rodgers “Jesus Was Crucified” 2007-9
   Rodgers “It Is Deep” 2009
Jordan “I Must Become a Menace to My Enemies” 2230

4/13 Harper “Br’er Sterling and the Rocker” 2280

Williams “I Want Aretha to Set This to Music” 2363-65

4/18 Cliff “Within the Veil” 2463

4/20 A. Walker “On Stripping Bark from Myself” 2379

Coleman “VOICES” 2477

4/25 Shange “Nappy Edges” 2521

Dove “David Walker” 2584

Dove “Parsley” 2585-86