This is a specialized course focusing on the issues of hybridity and passing in African American literature. The figure of the tragic mulatta and other formulations of mulatto/a identity will be addressed. However, the focus of the text will be on the passing phenomenon in which African American characters (some of whom are of mixed ancestry) pass themselves off as members of another race.


Requirements: **Active participation** is required. The seminar format of the course requires that all members read the assignments prior to class and come prepared to discuss the material. Before class students should prepare questions and comments for discussion purposes. Participation does affect final grades. **3-5 page paper proposal** describing plans for the final paper, including a bibliography of possible sources is due no later than October 8th. Upon approval of paper proposal, **15-20 pp paper (3 units) or 20-25pp paper (4 units)** based on course reading is due no later than December 10th. A **20 min. oral presentation** based on the final paper must be given on the assigned day. Presenters should be prepared to respond to questions from the class.

Grading Distribution: Participation—10%, Paper Proposal—20%, Oral Presentation—10%, and Essay—50%.

Oral Presentations are due as scheduled on the sign up sheet. You must be present on your assigned day.

Reading & Assignment schedule: Come to class with that day’s reading already completed. All assignments are due at the beginning of class. Readings with *s denote essays on reserve.

8/27   Introduction & *Now Pretend* (film)
9/3    *Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom*, Ginsberg 1-18 & 37-56 Bennett 1-8*
9/10   *Iola Leroy & Berzon* 3-17*
9/17   *Imperium in Imperio & Kawash* 1-22*
9/24   *Contending Forces*
10/1   *The Marrow of Tradition & Kawash* 85-123*
10/8   Paper Proposals Due & Of One Blood
10/15  The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man & Kawash in Ginsberg 59-74
10/22  Quicksand
10/29  Passing & Cutter in Ginsberg 75-100
11/5   Plum Bun
11/12  Their Eyes Were Watching God
11/19  ORAL PRESENTATIONS
11/26  NO CLASS—HAPPY THANKS GIVING
12/3   ORAL PRESENTATIONS
12/10  ORAL PRESENTATIONS