

Fall 8-15-2009

## ENG 2705-001: African American Literature

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2705-001

Michael Loudon  
English 2705.001  
TR 1700-1815 Coleman 3160  
Fall 2009

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TR 1:00-2:00; W 1:00-3:00;  
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**African American Literature: Course Syllabus**

*August*

- T 25: Course introduction  
R 27: African American literature and the literary canon ("Preface")  
The Vernacular Tradition (3-94)  
(All page numbers are from *The Norton Anthology*...unless otherwise noted. Read the introductory prose and scan the songs.  
Throughout the course, *read all prefaces to historical sections and head notes to the individual authors that we're reading.*)

*September*

- T 1: Premises and Contexts for the Study of African American Literature; continue reading and scanning "The Vernacular Tradition"  
R 3: (continued)  
  
T 8: The Construction of Culture: Making a Life within Enslavement  
R 10: **Slavery and Freedom** (151-162)  
Frederick Douglass, *Narrative*... (387-452)  
  
T 15: (continued)  
R 17: (continued)  
  
T 22: Legacies—Sojourner Truth (245-255) and William Wells Brown (315-325) *Essay #1 assigned*  
R 24: **Reconstruction** (541-554)  
Booker T. Washington, *Up from Slavery* (570-602)  
  
T 29: W. E. B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk* (686-766; Chapters 1, 3, 5, 6, 10 and 14 for class discussion)

*October*

- R 1: (continued)  
  
T 6: **Harlem Renaissance** (953-962)  
W. E. B. Du Bois, "Criteria of Negro Art" (777-784);  
Schomburg (962-967); Locke (983-993); Garvey (995-1003)  
R 8: McKay (1003-1010, especially "Africa" and "America");  
Schuyler (1220-1223); Hughes (1288-1291; 1311-1314)  
*Take-home midterm examination assigned*  
  
T 13: Zora Neale Hurston, (1019-1022; 1041-1053)  
*Their Eyes Were Watching God*  
R 15: (continued) **Take-home midterm examination DUE**  
  
  
T 20: Jean Toomer, *Cane* (1168-1219)  
R 22: (continued) **Essay #1 DUE**

- T 27: Hughes (1291-1311); Countee Cullen (1339-1351, especially "Heritage"); Brown (1248-1266)  
 R 29: video *Lightin' Hopkins*; Blues (30; 45; 48-63); *Audio Companion-Disc #1*: 11-18; *Audio Companion-Disc #2*: 24; Essay #2 assigned

#### November

- T 3: **Realism, Naturalism, Modernism** (1355-1368)  
 Richard Wright (1399-1410); from *Black Boy* (1471-1487)  
 R 5: Robert Hayden (1516-1534, especially 1525-1528)  
 T 10: Gwendolyn Brooks (1623-1649, especially 1633-1638)  
 R 12: Ralph Ellison (1535-1548; 1570-1578)  
 Ellison, *Invisible Man*  
 T 17: (continued)  
 R 19: (continued)

#### Thanksgiving Recess

#### December

- T 1: James Baldwin (1696-1713, especially "Stranger in the Village") and "Sonny's Blues" (1728-1749)  
 R 3: James Baldwin, *Go Tell it on the Mountain*  
 T 8: (continued)  
 R 10: **Black Arts Movement** (1831-1850)  
 Martin Luther King, Jr., "I Have a Dream" and Malcolm X, "The Ballot or the Bullet," *Audio Companion-Disc #2*: 22-23

Read all selections below, but see especially:

Larry Neal (2038-2050), "The Black Arts Movement"  
 Maulana Karenga, (2086-2090), "Black Art: Mute Matter Given Force and Function"

Group presentations TBA on:

Mari Evans (1850-1852), "I Am a Black Woman" (1851)  
 Etheridge Knight (1908-1911), all three poems

Hoyt Fuller (1852-1859), "Towards a Black Aesthetic"  
 Addison Gayle, Jr. (1911-1918), "The Black Aesthetic"

Audre Lorde (1919-1926), especially "Poetry Is Not a Luxury"  
 Amiri Baraka (1937-1946), "Black Art" and "Wailers" (1943-46)  
 Sonia Sanchez (1963-1967), from *A Blues Book for Blue Black Magical Women* (1966-1967)

Michael Harper (2070-2075), all poems  
 Haki Madhubuti (2090-2096), all poems

Essay #2 DUE

Final examination: Tuesday, December 15, 5:15-7:15