

Fall 8-15-2005

ENG 2705-001: African American Literature

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2705-001

Professor Martone
English 2705-001 African American Literature
Fall Semester, 2005
MWF 12:00-12:50
Room CH 3150

Office CH 3751
Office Hour: immediately after class
E-mail: cfjpm@eiu.edu
Phone: 581-6982

Agenda. An overview of important contributions to African American literature, with attention to the poetics of resistance and overcoming (importance of the vernacular, genres, negotiated stances, tropes, signifying, etc) political and economic contexts, and gender. Close reading and *discussion* of the texts.

Texts.

Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*
Henry Louis Gates and Nellie McKay, *The Norton Anthology of African American Literature*.
Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
Audre Lorde, *Zami*

Requirements. There will be unannounced reading quizzes and in-class writing (25% of grade), as well as a 3-5 page paper (25% of grade), a midterm (25% of grade) and a final examination (25% of grade). I will not give make-up exams or assignments.

Attendance. You are allowed one absence for any reason. I will reduce your final grade by a letter or more for additional absences. (N.B. Notes from Health Services or elsewhere may constitute explanations but do not "excuse" you from class.)

Schedule

August 22-26

Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of An American Slave*, 385

September 7-9

Douglass, *What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?* 462

September 12-16

Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, 279

September 19-23

W.E.B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk*, 692
Born in Slavery, Slave Narratives from the FWP 1936-38
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/snhtml/snhome.html>

September 26-30

Paul Lawrence Dunbar, 905
James Weldon Johnson, *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man*, 803

October 3-5

Review, **Midterm examination**

October 10-14

Nella Larsen, *Quicksand*, 1085

October 17-21

Jean Toomer, *Cane*, 1168
Langston Hughes, 1288

October 24-28

Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

October 31-November 4

Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*

November 7-11

Ellison, cont'd.

November 14-18

Ellison, concluded.
Short Paper Due November 18

November 28-December 2

Robert Hayden, 1516
Gwendolyn Brooks, 1623
Bob Kaufman, 1761
Michael S. Harper, 2070

December 5-9

Audre Lorde, *Zami*