

**WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
BASIC COURSE INFORMATION**

COURSE NUMBER	LIT 333
COURSE TITLE	African American Literature
CREDITS	3
PREREQUISITE	ENG 122 or COM 245

FACULTY MEMBER

TERM

METHOD OF CONTACT/ OFFICE HOURS

COURSE TIME BREAKDOWN

40 Hours of Structured Learning Activities

TEXTBOOKS

*A list of course textbooks are available on the Wilmington University Bookstore website:

<http://bookstore.wilmu.edu/>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a survey of African American literature from the 1700s to the present. Students will examine writings from their historical contexts, analyzing the social, economic, and political forces that influenced these works. They will also explore the influence of the literature and culture of African-Americans on American culture. Authors read in this class include Olaudah Equiano, Phillis Wheatley, Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglass, Ida Wells Barnett, W.E.B. Du Bois, Zora Neale Hurston, Langston Hughes, Ralph Ellison, Gwendolyn Brooks, Malcom X, Martin Luther King, Jr., Audre Lorde, and others. Students will learn how literary devices are used to create meaning for readers: plot, characterization, theme, point of view, symbol, irony, and figurative language. Students will engage in close reading: they will be asked to analyze literature inductively, using clues from the surface level of literature (literary devices) to create larger truths they see in the literature. Student analysis of literature will be expressed through essays, presentations, and other activities.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will provide students with the knowledge and skills to:

1. Analyze how literary devices such as setting, plot, characters, themes, symbols, irony and figurative language are used to create meaning in African American literature.
2. Analyze text through close reading, inductive logic and various cultural frameworks, such as history, politics, religion, racism, and economics.
3. Design a project about the African American cultural experience that gathers works of art from different media (art, music, literature, movies, TV, and online media) and analyzes thematic ties between the works of art.
4. Communicate analysis of texts in analytic and reflective writing.

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5. Practice critical thinking and communication skills in all class activities.

METHODOLOGY

A. Teaching and Learning Strategies

Assigned Readings, Web-Enhanced Activities, External Literature Review, Blogs/Discussions, Zoom, PowerPoint/Prezi, and Kaltura.

B. Evaluation Methods

Discussion Boards, Reflections, Milestones towards a final project, and Final Project

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

EVALUATION PROCEDURE AND GRADING POLICY:

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY:

CAS CLASSROOM STANDARDS: See Canvas “Syllabus” area

COURSE SCHEDULE (all assignments and due dates):