

English 381
Spring 2001
TTH 12:30-1:45
L204

Dr. Adriane Ivey
Office: Languages 103B
Office Hours: MTWTH 2-4
Office Phone: 4-8358
email: aivey@emory.edu

Required Texts: Octavia Butler, *Kindred*; Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*; Paule Marshall, *The Chosen Place, The Timeless People*; Toni Morrison, *Song of Solomon* and *Sula*; Gloria Naylor, *Mama Day* and *The Women of Brewster Place*; Ann Petry, *The Street*; Alice Walker, *The Color Purple*; Sherley Anne Williams, *Dessa Rose*

Suggested Text: The MLA Handbook

Objectives: This course is designed to introduce you to writing by African American women writers. We will discuss these novels in the context of twentieth-century African American history and art. You will read critically and analytically and write persuasively about these writers in clear, effective prose.

Attendance: Because understanding the fiction we read is reliant upon participation in active discussions about that fiction, attendance is an important aspect of this class. **Therefore you will be allowed a maximum of three absences.** Your final grade will drop one-third of a letter for each absence after the third. I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences.

Deadlines for Assignments: Assignments are due in class on the date specified on the itinerary. Late assignments will drop one letter grade for every day they are late.

Plagiarism: All work submitted in this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly documented using MLA format. Remember that you are to adhere to the Oxford College Honor Code and that your signature on any assignment submitted in this class indicates that you have neither given nor received unauthorized information on the work.

Requirements and Grading: All work will be graded and every assignment will count towards the final grade. I grade on a plus minus scale. Your final grade for this course will be figured as follows:

30%	Two in-class essay tests (15% each)
40%	Two 5-6 page papers (20% each)
15%	Six 2 page Rhetorical Analyses
15%	Final Exam

Rhetorical Analyses: You will have six analyses of two pages each. You can earn a maximum of 10 points per response. Each response will ask you to give a clear synopsis of a particular aspect of a reading assignment. All work done for this class must be typed on a typewriter or on a word processor. They must be double-spaced and stapled. I will not accept folded or paper-clipped papers. In the top left-hand corner of the front page, place your name on the first line and the date on the second. The papers must have titles, which should be centered after your name and the date.

I reserve the right to amend or modify anything on this statement by means of future hand-outs.

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Readings and Assignments

NOTE: READING ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE READ FOR THE DAY THEY ARE LISTED
(MEANING THAT YOU SHOULD READ THEM BEFORE THAT TIME).

TH	1/18	Introduction
T	1/23	Hurston (Ch. 1-9)
TH	1/25	Hurston (Ch. 10-20)
T	1/30	Petry (Ch. 1-5)
TH	2/1	Petry (Ch. 6-11)
T	2/6	Petry (Ch. 12-18)
TH	2/8	Marshall (p.3-126)
T	2/13	Marshall (p.127-250)
TH	2/15	Marshall (p.251-361)
T	2/20	Marshall (p.362-472)
TH	2/22	Essay Test #1
T	2/27	Walker (p.1-149)
TH	3/1	Walker (p.150-295)
T	3/6	Morrison, <i>Sula</i> (Part I)
TH	3/8	Paper #1 due; Sula (Part II)
M-F	3/12-3/16	Spring Break Holiday
T	3/20	Morrison, <i>Song of Solomon</i> (Part I, Ch. 1-5)
TH	3/22	<i>Song</i> (I, Ch. 6-9)
T	3/27	<i>Song</i> (Part II)
TH	3/29	<i>Song</i>
T	4/3	Naylor, <i>The Women of Brewster Place</i> ("Dawn" through "Lucelia Louise Turner")
TH	4/5	<i>Brewster Place</i> (finish)
T	4/10	Naylor, <i>Mama Day</i> (Part I)
TH	4/12	<i>Mama Day</i> (Part II)
T	4/17	Essay Test #2
TH	4/19	Williams (Ch. 1-3)
T	4/24	Paper #2 due; Williams (Ch. 4-"Epilogue")
TH	4/26	Butler (p.9-131)
T	5/1	Butler (p. 131-264)
M	5/7	Final Exam 9:00am-12:00pm