

English 359
20th Century African American Literature
TTH 1-2:15

Dr. Adriane Ivey
Fall 2009
email: aivey@emory.edu

Required Texts: *Going to Meet the Man*, James Baldwin; *Uncle Tom's Children*, Richard Wright; *The Street*, Ann Petry; *A Mercy*, Toni Morrison; *Wild Seed*, Octavia Butler; *A Rage In Harlem*, Chester Himes.

Objectives: This course is designed to introduce you to significant and influential writers and trends in African American literature from the turn of the 20th century to the present. Through course readings and writing assignments, you will develop an understanding of African American literary expression and explore the themes and techniques that have shaped African American aesthetic practices.

Attendance: Attendance in this course is essential for a successful performance. You have a maximum of three absences. You will lose 1/3 a letter grade on your final grade for any absence after the third. I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences. How you use your absences is up to your discretion. Attendance is also important for successful performance on the quizzes. **Quizzes cannot be made up for any reason;** therefore, it is up to you to make sure you maintain a steady attendance record.

Deadlines for Assignments: Papers are due at class time on the due date. Late papers will receive 5 points off per day they are late. RAs will receive 2 points off per 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 Emory College Honor Code and that your name on any assignment submitted in this class indicates that you have neither given nor received unauthorized information on the work. If you are unsure of what constitutes plagiarism, ask. It is your responsibility to understand the Honor Code. Ignorance is never a good defense.

Requirements:

- Close reading of the literature
- Class participation
- 2 papers of five pages each
- 5 rhetorical analyses of two pages each
- Daily Reading Quizzes
- Comprehensive Final Exam

Format For Papers: All final essays must be typed. They must be double-spaced and stapled. All essays must have titles. The only heading necessary is your name and the paper title. Do not turn in a title page or a front page with unnecessary spaces. You may

use secondary sources on these papers if necessary, but they must be properly cited and acknowledged.

Rhetorical Analyses: These are short (2 page typed, double spaced) papers on your reading. They will be used for class discussion; therefore, you should write with the expectation of reading the response to the class. You will sign up for the days on which you must write a rhetorical analysis.

Guidelines for Rhetorical Analyses: Analyses should be organized based on the following format: In the first paragraph you should include a one-sentence summary of the main point of the assigned text and a two-three sentence summary of one specific point in the assigned text that you will address in the rest of your analysis. With the remaining space in your analysis, you will work with this specific point either by elaborating on it or by critiquing it. You need to have a clear thesis and to support it with examples from the text. Don't try to cover too much in these very short papers. Instead, fully develop one point. **Do not consult any secondary sources for these assignments.** If you are having trouble coming up with a topic, you can ask me to provide you a question to answer.

Final Grades will be based on the following percentages:

- 25% 2 five-seven page papers (10% each)
- 25% 5 two-page Rhetorical Analyses
- 25% Daily Reading Quizzes and short writing assignments
- 25% Final Exam

Other things to know:

Throw nothing away.

If I am late and there is no notice at the door, you should wait fifteen minutes before leaving. Prepare the next day's assignments for the next meeting.

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