

African American Literature Through the Harlem Renaissance

FALL 2018

Professor Matt Richardson

E376R/AFR 372E

Office Hours and Location: Tues 2-3:00 GWB 3.200M

email: through canvas

Course Description:

The eighteenth century saw the inauguration of writing from enslaved Africans in America. Even from a condition of bondage, their work contributes to literary and intellectual debates about the nature and limitations of freedom, personhood and citizenship. We will begin by examining issues of capture, fugitivity and legal condition in relation to gender and sexuality from the perspectives of slaves and freed people. We will also examine works by African American authors writing a generation after slavery as they look back to slavery in order to imagine the future of African Americans. This course is a survey of major black writers in the context of slavery and its immediate aftermath. Throughout the course, we will read literature, supreme court decisions, literary and legal theory, and view films and documentaries that illuminate the period of the eighteenth century through the early twentieth century in African American culture and history.

Course Requirements:

Office Hours: Students are encouraged to come to office hours at least once during the semester to discuss your progress in the class and any additional questions you may have. You are encouraged to take further advantage of office hours and I am also available by appointment.

Attendance and Participation: Students are expected to attend class every session. Participation in all aspects of the class is **MANDATORY** including short in-class writing assignments that will happen throughout the semester. All readings and assignments should be completed before class meetings and students are responsible for adding to class discussions of material. Please note that attendance and participation is worth 15% of your total grade. Late arrivals are disruptive to class and I will not repeat concepts and assignments given during class. If you miss a class or are late, you are still responsible for any announcements, assignments, lecture material and/or deadlines that are made. Your grade will be affected if you have more than 1 unexcused absence during the semester.

Short Writing Assignments/blog posts: There are 5 writing assignments and a final paper in the form of blog posts to earlyblackliterature.wordpress.com. Short essays are designed to help students analyze the historical and theoretical importance of the primary course material. Collectively the short essays are worth 20% of your final grade and are counted in addition to class participation, so take them seriously.

Midterm and Final: The midterm and final papers are designed to assess students' accumulated knowledge. The final will be a take home exam. Papers must be TYPED, double-spaced, with times new roman (or equivalent) 12 point font and 1inch margins.

Canvas: I will be in contact with you about updates in assignments through Canvas It is the students' responsibility to make sure that Canvas has your updated email address.
<http://canvas.utexas.edu/>

NO LATE PAPERS. NO LAPTOPS. NO CELL PHONES

Code of Mutual Respect: In general, this is not a lecture class, but one grounded in dialogue. Feel free to be candid and direct in this class. Your opinions and insights are important, and your voice needs to be heard, so look forward to the opportunity to chime in. I will respect you as adults and assume that you will treat others in the class with respect as well. Because we will be sharing many personal ideas which may conflict with your own personal ideas and beliefs, it is important that you strive to be considerate, sensitive, and respectful. Be prepared to offer constructive criticism as well as receive it. We will discuss work that includes lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender themes in this course. Students are expected to approach all class material with maturity and academic rigor.

Code of Academic Conduct: University policy requires that students cite sources they use in their work. **THIS INCLUDES PARAPHRASING** of materials. Any inclusion of ideas that are not your own will be considered plagiarism. Students who do not properly cite ideas, quotes or paraphrasing of other published or unpublished material will automatically face disciplinary action which will also be reflected in their grade.

Students with Disabilities: Any student with a documented disability (physical or cognitive) who requires academic accommodations should contact the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259 (voice) or 471-4641 (TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations.

Religious Holidays: If you observe a recognized religious holiday that is in conflict with the university schedule, please come talk to me.

Books are available at the University CO-OP and the Course Reader is available at Jenn's Copy on Guadalupe St. (512) 473-8669. Please note that there are some required readings that are not in the course reader or the main texts. They will be available online or as handouts in class.

Grading Policy

Midterm Paper (6 pages)	30%
Short Writing/Blog Posts	20%
Final Paper (10 pages)	35%
Attendance & Participation	15%

Required Texts

Classic Slave Narratives, includes Olaudah Equiano, The Interesting Narrative and Other Writings; Frederick Douglass, Narrative of the Life; Harriet Jacobs, Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl and Mary Prince, Narrative of the Life of Mary Prince

Three Classic African American Novels, includes William Wells Brown, Clotel: Or the President's Daughter; Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, Iola Leroy; Charles Chesnutt, Marrow of Tradition

Nella Larsen, Passing

Alain Locke, New Negro

Course reader is available at Jenn's Copy on Guadalupe.

Week One	
30-Aug	INTRODUCTION
Week Two	
4-Sep	Phillis Wheatley, Memoir and Poems of Phillis Wheatley. 3rd Edition ed. Miami, FL: Mnemosyne Publishers, 1969.
6-Sep	Wheatley & "'I Was Born': Slave Narratives, Their Status as Autobiography and as Literature," James Olney, in The Slave's Narrative, Charles T. Davis and Henry Louis Gates, ed., NY: Oxford University Press, 1985.
Week Three	
11-Sep	Start Olaudah Equiano: The Interesting Narrative and Other Writings, (1788)
September 13	Olaudah Equiano, blog post due Sunday at 6pm
Week Four	
18-Sep	Equiano and Selections by Immanuel Kant, from Race and the Enlightenment, A Reader. Emmanuel Chukwudi Eze, ed Cambridge, Massachusetts: Blackwell Publishers, 1997.
20-Sep	Start Frederick Douglass: Narrative of the Life & Thomas Jefferson "The Difference is Fixed in Nature" from Race and the Enlightenment, A Reader. Emmanuel Chukwudi Eze, ed Cambridge, Massachusetts: Blackwell Publishers, 1997. Selections by Immanuel Kant, from Race and the Enlightenment, A Reader. Emmanuel Chukwudi Eze, ed Cambridge, Massachusetts: Blackwell Publishers, 1997.
Week Five	
25-Sep	Frederick Douglass: Narrative of the Life
27-Sep	Frederick Douglass and Dred Scott Case and David Walker: Appeal to the Coloured Citizens of the World (1829).

Week Six	
2-Oct	FILM Sarah Baartman & "Writing Sex, Writing Difference." Black Venus: Sexualized Savages, Primal Fears and Primitive Narratives in French. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1999. FIRST "Account of the Dissection of a Bushwoman," from The Journal of Anatomy and Physiology (1867).
4-Oct	Film discussion Midterm PAPER DUE
Week Seven	
9-Oct	Harriet Jacobs, Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl (1861).
11-Oct	Jacobs, Saidiya Hartman, Scenes of Seduction; blog post due Sunday at 6pm
Week Eight	
16-Oct	Henry Bibb, Narrative of Henry Bibb
18-Oct	Clotel: The President's Daughter (1853).
Week Nine	
23-Oct	Clotel & Cheryl Harris, "Whiteness as Property." Critical Race Theory
25-Oct	Clotel & Start Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, Iola Leroy (1892). Blog post due Sunday 6pm
Week Ten	
30-Oct	Finish Iola Leroy.
1-Nov	Film: Birth of a Nation
Week Eleven	
6-Nov	W.E.B. DuBois "Of Our Spiritual Strivings" and "The Dawn of Freedom" from The Souls of Black Folk, NY: Bedford Books, 1997 (originally published in 1903) & Start Charles Chesnutt: Marrow of Tradition (1901)
8-Nov	Marrow of Tradition blog post due Sunday at 6
Week Twelve	
13-Nov	Marrow of Tradition
15-Nov	Alain Locke "The New Negro" and "The Negro Youth Speaks," from The New Negro: Voices of The Harlem Renaissance," NY: Simon and Schuster, 1997 (first published 1925). Selected Poems from The New Negro. Last Day of Class. Blog Post due Sunday 6pm
Week Thirteen	
20-Nov	Thanksgiving
22-Nov	Thanksgiving

Week Fourteen	
27-Nov	Spunk," "Compromise," "Carma," from The New Negro: Voices of The Harlem Renaissance," NY: Simon and Schuster, 1997 (first published 1925).
29-Nov	New Negro: Selected Poems, Course Packet: Smoke, Lillies and Jade
Week Fifteen	
4-Dec	Nella Larsen Passing
6-Dec	Nella Larsen Passing

Final Paper Due on December 10th by 5pm.

Policies:

Documented Disability Statement: The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 232-2937 (video phone), or visit <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd>.

Honor Code: The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Academic Integrity: Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work. For additional information on Academic Integrity, see <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acadint.php>.

Religious Holy Days: By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of a pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Q-Drop: If you want to drop a class after the 12th class day, you'll need to execute a Q drop before the Q-drop deadline, which typically occurs near the middle of the semester. Under Texas law, you are only allowed six Q drops while you are in college at any public Texas institution. For more information, see: <http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/csacc/academic/adddrop/qdrop>

Title IX: Title IX is a federal law that protects against sex and gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, dating/domestic violence and stalking at federally funded educational institutions. UT Austin is committed to fostering a learning and working environment free from discrimination in all its forms. When sexual misconduct occurs in our community, the university can:

1. Intervene to prevent harmful behavior from continuing or escalating.
2. Provide support and remedies to students and employees who have experienced harm or have become involved in a Title IX investigation.
3. Investigate and discipline violations of the university's [relevant policies](#).

Faculty members and certain staff members are considered "Responsible Employees" or "Mandatory Reporters," which means that they are required to report violations of Title IX to the Title IX Coordinator. **I am a Responsible Employee and must report any Title IX related incidents** that are disclosed in writing, discussion, or one-on-one. Before talking with me, or with any faculty or staff member about a Title IX related incident, be sure to ask whether they are a responsible employee. If you want to speak with someone for support or remedies without making an official report to the university, email advocate@austin.utexas.edu For more information about

reporting options and resources, visit titleix.utexas.edu or contact the Title IX Office at titleix@austin.utexas.edu.

Web Site: Canvas.