

English 381R
Spring 2006
TTH 11:30-12:45
Language 204A

Dr. Adriane Ivey
Office: Languages 103
Office Hours: WTHF 1:40-3:30
Phone: 4-8358
email: aivey@emory.edu

Required Texts: Octavia Butler, *Mind of My Mind*; Nella Larsen, *Quicksand*; Paule Marshall, *Brown Girl, Brown Stones*; Toni Morrison, *Song of Solomon* and *Sula*; Gloria Naylor, *Mama Day* and *Bailey's Café*; Alice Walker, *Possessing the Secret of Joy*; 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 to gain an understanding of how these women respond to, borrow from, and criticize literary, artistic, and historical traditions. 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. There will be no official absence policy, but missing classes will adversely affect your grades on the quizzes and on the tests. If there are excessive absences in the class as a whole, I reserve the right to institute an absence policy at any time.

Deadlines for Assignments: Assignments are due in class on the date specified on the itinerary. Late assignments will drop five points 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:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| - Close reading of the literature | - Daily Reading Quizzes |
| - Class participation | - Discussion leader for 1 class period |
| - 2 papers of 5-7 pages each | - Midterm Exam |
| - 3 papers of 2-3 pages each | - Comprehensive Final Exam |

Format For 5-7 Page Papers: All final essays must be typed either 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, my name on the second line, and the date on the third line. All essays must have titles that reflect the argument of the paper. You may use secondary sources on these papers if necessary, but they must be properly cited and acknowledged.

Short Papers: These are short (2- page typed, double spaced) papers on your reading. You will use them to help lead class discussion; therefore, you should write with the expectation of reading all or part of your paper to the class. You will sign up for the days on which you must write a short paper.

Guidelines for Short Papers: 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 should use no secondary sources for these assignments.**

Leading Class Discussion: You will be responsible for leading class discussion on one day. You will sign up for these days. It will be one of the days you also have short papers due. Two students will sign-up to lead class discussion for the first 30 minutes of class each day. These students will be responsible for offering questions and follow-up comments to keep discussion moving. The grade will be based on the 10 point quiz scale and will be figured into the final grade with the reading quizzes.

Final Grades will be based on the following percentages:
(I grade on the +/- scale)

| | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------|-----|--------------|
| 30% | Two 5-7 page papers (15% each) | 15% | Midterm Exam |
|-----|--------------------------------|-----|--------------|

20% Four 2-3 page papers (5% each)
15% Daily Reading Quizzes

20% Final Exam

Other things to know:

- I do not allow cell phones in class. Make sure your phone is turned off or don't bring it. If your phone goes off in class, you will be asked to leave and will be considered absent for the day. That means no text-messaging either.
- 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.

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 | 1/19 | Introduction |
| T | 1/24 | Larsen (to Chapter 13) |
| TH | 1/26 | Larsen (to end) |
| T | 1/31 | Marshall |
| TH | 2/2 | Marshall |
| T | 2/7 | Marshall |
| TH | 2/9 | Morrison |
| T | 2/14 | Morrison |
| TH | 2/16 | Morrison |
| T | 2/21 | Morrison |
| TH | 2/23 | Morrison |
| T | 2/28 | Essay Test #1 |
| TH | 3/2 | Walker |
| T | 3/7 | Walker |
| TH | 3/9 | Paper #1 due; Walker |
| M-F | 3/13-3/17 | Spring Break Holiday |
| T | 3/21 | Naylor |
| TH | 3/23 | Naylor |
| T | 3/28 | Naylor |
| TH | 3/30 | Naylor |
| T | 4/4 | Naylor |
| TH | 4/6 | Naylor |
| T | 4/11 | Williams |
| TH | 4/13 | Williams |
| T | 4/18 | Williams |
| TH | 4/20 | Essay Test #2 |
| T | 4/25 | Butler |
| TH | 4/27 | Butler |
| T | 5/2 | Paper #2 due; Butler |

| | | | | |
|----|------|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| T | 2/7 | Marshall | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | (Discussion Leader) | (Discussion Leader) |
| TH | 2/9 | Morrison, <i>Sula</i> | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| T | 2/14 | <i>Sula</i> | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | (Discussion Leader) | (Discussion Leader) |
| TH | 2/16 | Morrison, <i>Song of Solomon</i> | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| T | 2/21 | <i>Song</i> | | |
| | | | | |
| | | (Discussion Leader) | (Discussion Leader) | (Discussion Leader) |
| TH | 2/23 | <i>Song</i> | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | (Discussion Leader) | (Discussion Leader) |
| TH | 3/2 | Walker | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| T | 3/7 | Walker | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | (Discussion Leader) | (Discussion Leader) |
| T | 3/21 | Naylor, <i>Mama Day</i> | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| TH | 3/23 | <i>Mama Day</i> | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | (Discussion Leader) | (Discussion Leader) |

| | | | | |
|----|------|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| T | 3/28 | <i>Mama Day</i> | | |
| | | | (Discussion Leader) | (Discussion Leader) |
| TH | 3/30 | Naylor, <i>Bailey's Café</i> | | |
| | | | | |
| T | 4/4 | <i>Bailey's Café</i> | | |
| | | | | |
| TH | 4/6 | <i>Bailey's Café</i> | | |
| | | | (Discussion Leader) | (Discussion Leader) |
| T | 4/11 | Williams | | |
| | | | | |
| TH | 4/13 | Williams | | |
| | | | | |
| T | 4/18 | Williams | | |
| | | | (Discussion Leader) | (Discussion Leader) |
| T | 4/25 | Butler | | |
| | | | | |
| TH | 4/27 | Butler | | |
| | | | (Discussion Leader) | (Discussion Leader) |