

**Course Outline for:** ENGL 2130 African American Literature**A. Course Description:**

1. Number of credits: 3
2. Lecture hours per week: 3
3. Prerequisites: ENGC 0960 (C/P or higher); or placement into Writing College Level; or placement into READ 1106 and ENGC 1101
4. Corequisites: None
5. MnTC Goals: Goal #6 - Humanities and Fine Arts  
Goal #7A - Human Diversity, Race, Power, and Justice in the United States

Beginning with Phillis Wheatley's poetry and progressing through slave narratives, the Harlem Renaissance, and into contemporary literature, we explore African American experience through writing as a critical part of the socio-cultural and historical fabric of the United States and its literary traditions. We analyze various genres such as fiction, poetry, and drama in their historical, literary, and political contexts. Through discussion and writing, our examination of African American writers and their literature honors diverse cultural identities and communities, celebrates resilience, and illuminates the meaning and significance of literary works both on a personal and societal level.

**B. Date last reviewed:** February 2025**C. Outline of Major Content Areas:**

1. Major literary aesthetic traditions of the designated cultural group in historical and philosophical context
2. Genres and associated literary elements
3. Cultural values and group identity as revealed in literature
4. Attitudes and behavior regarding diversity
5. Literature's influence on the shaping of American culture
6. Introduction to relevant literary criticism and theory

**D. Course Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Analyze key works by a variety of African American authors. (Goal 2d, 6a, 6c, 6e)
2. Describe how African American culture and history have impacted genres and aesthetic values of the American literary canon. (Goal 2a, 6b, 7Ad)
3. Demonstrate an awareness of the dynamics of unequal power and how they interact with African American identities in U.S. culture as reflected in the literature. (Goal 6b, 7Aa, 7Ab)
4. Critique their own attitudes, behaviors, and beliefs regarding diversity, racism, and bigotry associated with African American culture. (Goal 7Ac)

5. Analyze the scope and variety of literary texts which present the reality of African American lived experiences, as well as the value assumptions that affect interpretation. (Goal 2b, 2d, 6a, 6c)
6. Demonstrate communication skills appropriate for discussing diverse identities in literature, which are also needed in a diverse society. (Goal 2a, 7Ae)

**E. Methods for Assessing Student Learning:**

Methods for assessment may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Analytical essays
2. Quizzes/Exams
3. Journals
4. Course project(s)
5. Class participation/discussion

**F. Special Information:**

None