This course will examine a cultural history of African American literature, film, and media. This course centers the African American experience which calls for a better understanding of African and African American centered theories such as intersectionality, Afrofuturism, and Afro-pessimism. We will study the intellectual lineage of their African heritage and explore their experiences during and after American enslavement. We will explore novels that address Afrofuturism and Afro-pessimism in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Authors like Mary Prince, Sutton Griggs, Charles W. Chesnutt, Nella Larsen, Ralph Ellison, and more will move our course through the early years of African and African Americans who wrote what it means to be Black in America and the future of the African American identity.