Course Description

This course is a study of the African American dramatic literary genre and canon, specifically through an examination of playwrights Katori Hall, Lynn Nottage, and August Wilson. While our primary focus will center upon contemporary dramatic texts and criticism, we will discuss the history of African American dramatic literature and its distinction from and reflection of mainstream dramatic literature and culture. Emphases will be placed upon dramatic representations and discussions of identity, civil rights and equality, Black Feminism and Womanism, the African American family, and African American dramatic representations of the urban South, particularly Memphis, Tennessee, and the African continent.

This WEB-based course will include literary and cultural studies readings, multimedia texts (music, video, podcasts, etc.), and video/audio discussion boards as part of its design. Assignments will include written responses, mid-semester and final examinations, interactive/experiential assignments, journal responses, and a micro-teaching presentation.