

ENGL 3325: The Beginnings to the Harlem Renaissance

Course Descriptions: This course will work within a historical framework beginning with the Colonial Period and ending with the Harlem Renaissance. To understand Early African American Literature, one must begin to understand the monumental impact slavery has had on American culture. Therefore, we will begin this course by studying the slave narrative and its effect on the “peculiar institution” of slavery. We will interrogate the notion of freedom that emerges in the nineteenth century and continues to develop and change in the early twentieth century, paying particular attention to the complexity of the “double consciousness” within African American conceptualizations of freedom. Themes we will explore in the course include such markers of freedom as: literacy, voting rights, domesticity, ownership of property and self, and the birth of the New Negro.

Required Texts:

Norton Anthology of African American Literature, 3rd edition, Volume 1—Henry Louis Gates Jr., & Valerie A. Smith—9780393923698

Jonah's Gourd Vine—Zola Neale Hurston—9780061350191

Black No More—George Schuyler—978155550631