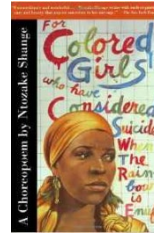
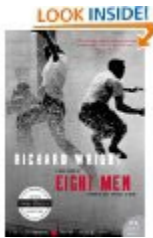


***Raising Consciousness, Wri(gh)ting Lives: African American Literature
Since the Harlem Renaissance***
English 3326.001
Fall 2024

L. Menson-Furr, Ph.D. Instructor
Lmnsnfr@memphis.edu



Extended Course Description

This course will introduce students to the works composed by African American authors between the 1930s and the present. Through studies of non-fiction, fiction, poetry, and drama, students will examine the continued development of African American literature as it, simultaneously, revisits and expands themes and subjects presented in works composed prior to the 1930s. Particular emphases will be placed upon the Chicago School of writers, integrationist aesthetics of the 1950s, black aesthetics of the 1960s, and the rise of rap/hip hop literature and aesthetics as a contemporary illustration of both the African American oral and protest traditions and genres. (Department of English)

Specific Course Description

In this survey course students will study the works authored by African American authors between 1940 and the 21st century. Emphasis will be placed upon the aim of African American literary productions as they meet the criteria put forth by novelist, essayist, dramatist, and activist Richard Wright in the essay "Blueprint for Negro Writing" that any first rate novel should "raise the consciousness" of its reader. As students study various forms of literature, they will be encouraged and challenged to closely and critically read and interpret each text individually, collectively, and within its historical and literary contexts. The written texts will be supplemented with CANVAS discussion board postings, web texts and musariums, and electronic texts.

Learning Outcomes At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to:

- ✓ Demonstrate, both orally and prosaically, knowledge and understanding of the distinct types of literature and literary voices produced by African American writers since the 1930s.
- ✓ Demonstrate an understanding of the historical, social, and cultural contexts of the literature created by African American writers since the 1930s.
- ✓ Identify various African American literary “schools,” periods, and authors.
- ✓ Define/explain literary terminology.
- ✓ Critically interpret African American literary theory and movements.
- ✓ Critically interpret and analyze literature orally and in essay form.
- ✓ Comparatively discuss the evolution of African American fiction, non-fiction, drama, and poetry between the 1930s and the present.
- ✓ Examine and discuss African American literature from an interdisciplinary perspective.

Required Texts:

(Note: Texts may be added or deleted before the course’s third week.)

Bullins, Ed. Clara’s Ole Man. (Scanned PDF text)

Brooks, Gwendolyn. Maud Martha and selected poetry (Electronic/Web text)

Cleage, Pearl. Bourbon at the Border. (Scanned PDF text)

Ellison, Ralph. Invisible Man. 97806797327621

--“King of the Bingo Game.” (Electronic/Web text)

Hurston, Zora. “What White Publishers Won’t Print.” (Electronic/Web text)

Shange, Ntozake. For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf ISBN: 9780684843261

Whitehead, Colson. Apex Hides the Hurt. ISBN: 9781400031269

Wilson, August. Two Trains Running. ISBN: 978-0452269293

Wright, Richard. Uncle Tom’s Children. ISBN: 9780061450204

-Additional scanned and web-based novels, short stories, plays, and artistic pieces will be assigned.