

## **7465/8465: African American Literature 1960-1988**

**1:00-4:00pm R**

**Dr. Terrence Tucker**

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### **Course Description**

In this course we will trace the expansion and maturation of African American literature (and literary criticism) in the latter part of the twentieth century. Emerging alongside the rapidly changing social, political, and economic landscapes within America and African America, we witness an impressive array of voices that not only reflect the lives of African Americans in the post-World War II moment, but that also interrogate the forces and structures that impact the lives the authors depict. So while we will certainly be interested in impact of the black nationalism and black middle class on the politics of the literature and criticism of the 1960s and 1980s respectively, we will also consider the exploration of black masculinity and femininity that those movements reinforced or challenged. This class covers how the multiple movements of the period (e.g. Black Arts) differed from movements like the Harlem Renaissance or how the emergence of black women's voices reversed the narrower focus of the Wright school. Finally this class culminates with an examination of artists and critics who combined elements of distinct African American culture with the politics and aesthetics of multiple movements to become mainstream popular and critical successes. These works expand African American literature beyond the reflections of slavery and segregation to the varied concerns of African America in the post-Civil Rights America and setting the standard and agenda for African American literature in the twenty-first century.

### **Textbooks Required:**

Baldwin, James	<i>Another Country</i> (ISBN: 0-679-74471-1)
Gaines, Ernest	<i>A Gathering of Old Men</i> (ISBN: 0-679-73890-8)
Morrison, Toni	<i>Song of Solomon</i> (ISBN: 978-1-400-03342-3)
Naylor, Gloria	<i>The Women of Brewster Place</i> (ISBN: 978-0-14-006690-6)
Reed, Ishmael	<i>Mumbo Jumbo</i> (ISBN: 0-684-82477-9)
Malcolm X	<i>The Autobiography of Malcolm X</i> (ISBN: 0-345-35068-5)
Walker, Alice	<i>The Third Life of Grange Copeland</i> (ISBN: 0-15-602836-0)
Williams, Shereley Anne	<i>Dessa Rose</i> (ISBN: 0-688-16643-1)
Wilson, August	<i>Fences</i> (ISBN: 0-452-26401-4)
Wolfe, George C.	<i>The Colored Museum</i> (ISBN: 0-8021-3048-8)
Napier, Winston, ed.	<i>African American Literary Theory: A Reader</i> (ISBN: 978-0-8147-5810-6)