

**The South in African American Literature**  
**Literary Heritage: African-American Literature – English 3326-M50**  
**Online**

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**Course Description:**

The South has played a central role in African American life and culture since before the creation of the Constitution. Despite this, overt racism has continued to be a defining feature in the South's relationship with African Americans from slavery to the Civil War and Reconstruction to Jim Crow. While many African Americans fled the South during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the 21<sup>st</sup> century has seen the return of many African American return to the South more empowered than any generation before it. As a result, African American life continues to be directly or indirectly impacted by the politics, anxieties, and reputation of the South. However, African Americans have been central to Southern ideology, economy, and culture in ways that often go unnoticed or under discussed. The impact of African Americans on the South has, at times, made African American culture almost indistinguishable from Southern culture. In this course we will examine works that have explored black experience in the South and depicted the complex, intimate relationship between African Americans and a region central to their identity while also being a central site of their oppression.

**Required Texts:**

Cleage, Pearl	<i>Flyin' West and Other Plays</i> (ISBN: 1559361689)
Fuller, Charles	<i>A Soldier's Play</i> (ISBN: 0374521484)
Kelley, William Melvin	<i>A Different Drummer</i> (ISBN: 9780385413909)
Gaines, Ernest	<i>A Lesson Before Dying</i> (ISBN: 0375702709)
Hall, Katori	<i>The Mountaintop</i> (ISBN: 9781472587718)
Jones, Tayari	<i>Silver Sparrow</i> (ISBN: 9781616201425)
Moody, Anne	<i>Coming of Age in Mississippi</i> (ISBN: 9780440314882)
Walker, Alice	<i>Meridian</i> (ISBN: 0156028344)
Ward, Jesmyn	<i>Men We Reaped</i> (ISBN: 9781608195213)
Wright, Richard	<i>Black Boy</i> (ISBN: 9780061130243)