

## **ENGL 4372: Major African American Authors before the Harlem Renaissance**

### **Course Description:**

In this course we will read and examine the slave narrative. The slave narrative, as a genre, develops out of the abolitionist movements need for a first-person experience that would substantiate their abolitionist platform. As well, it develops out of the need for the American slave to give voice to their experience and fight for the end of slavery in their own words. While the slave narrative can be seen as propaganda, it is also a radical endeavor taken up by the slave for themselves and their communities. In our reading of these narratives we will examine how the authors created their texts and why? What was their motivation? How were these narratives used? And, most importantly, how do these authors maintain their individuality while fighting for their communities?