

Common Course Outline
ENGL 218
African American Literature I
3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County

Description

ENGL 218 —3 Credits—African American Literature I examines the portion of American literature created by African Americans, beginning with slavery up to the Harlem Renaissance, and including the vernacular tradition. Students read slave narratives, and first literary efforts by fugitive slaves and free African Americans, as well as essays, and speeches. The literature introduces students to the complex socioeconomic and political history of African Americans as a former enslaved population as well as an oppressed group who did not achieve full (legal) civil rights until the mid-1960s.

3 Credits

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 101 with a “C” or better.

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. identify writers and describe their works from various periods of literature within the context of the dominant literary norms;
2. explain ways traditional literary genres and periods have been challenged by African Americans writers;
3. define stylistic characteristics, and analyze recurring themes reflected in literary works of each period;
4. analyze questions and problems related to the texts;
5. examine changing societal values and mores of the literary era as they relate to the moral and ethical decisions of individuals;
6. assess the ways in which the selected literature reflects and also contributes to its particular historical moment and cultural context;
7. analyze the ways in which issues of race, gender, and class shape works of literature;
8. recognize the importance of the oral tradition in African American literature;
9. explain the connections between African American literature and political and social empowerment;
10. evaluate African American literature in the context of the canon of American literature;
11. evaluate contemporary forms of African American cultural expression through multimedia sources that serve to supplement the primary course text(s);
12. write a well-informed literary analysis using appropriate terminology and textual support;

13. navigate scholarly databases, evaluate the available sources, and identify appropriate material;
14. incorporate appropriate academic sources into essays by summarizing, quoting, and paraphrasing ethically and correctly; and cite sources according to the assigned formatting and style guide;
15. utilize learning management systems (e.g. Blackboard) as appropriate to the academic environment, and
16. utilize appropriate technology to convey stylistically correct presentations.

Major Topics

- I. Oral traditions
 - a. Spirituals
 - b. Gospel
 - c. Sermons
 - d. Speeches
- II. Pre-Emancipation literature
 - a. Fugitive Slave Narratives
 - b. Early Literature – poetry and fiction
 - c. Abolitionist literature
- III. Reconstruction to New Negro Renaissance
 - a. Accommodation vs. Political Empowerment
 - b. Exploration of literary forms
- IV. Harlem Renaissance
 - a. The New Negro emerges
 - b. White patronage
 - c. Political leadership
 - d. Protest writing

Course Requirements

Grading procedures, exams, and writing assignments will be determined by the instructor. However, all students will:

1. Participate in class discussions and/or online exchanges through established chat rooms, discussion boards, list serves, or other instructor-determined platform.
2. Write at least two literary analysis essays with appropriate academic sources, for a total of not less than 2500 words, and take at least one exam with an essay component.
3. Collaborate with peers on a project that will be presented to the class.
4. Multiple assignments must infuse CCBC General Education Program objectives, and at least one assignment worth a minimum 10% of the total course grade must allow students to demonstrate *at least 5* of the following General Education Program outcomes: Written Communication; Critical Analysis and Reasoning; Technological Competence;

Information Literacy; Scientific and Quantitative or Logical Reasoning; Local and Global Diversity; and Personal and Professional Ethics.

Other Course Information

Students will utilize learning management systems and other technology as appropriate to the academic environment.

This course is an approved General Education course in the Arts and Humanities category. This course is also an approved General Education Diversity course. Please refer to the current CCBC Catalog for General Education course criteria and outcomes.

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