

**Montclair High School  
Course Syllabus**

**Department: English**

**Course: African American Literature I**

**Level: Honors, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grade**

**Credits: 2.5**

**Course Description:**

This class will examine the development of the African American literary tradition through the consideration of history, literary genres, and cultural forms. We will study a range of genres, including fiction, poetry, drama, autobiography, and nonfiction, from the earliest published work by African Americans through to the Harlem Renaissance.

**Standards:**

**NJSLS:**

Reading Literature: 11-12. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6,

Reading Informational: 11-12. 1, 2, 4, 5

Writing: 11-12. 1, 2, 3, 6, 9

Speaking & Listening: 11-12. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6

**Anchor Text(s):**

<b>Text Title</b>	<b>Publisher/Author</b>	<b>Year/Edition</b>	<b>ISBN</b>	<b>Text Distribution</b>
<i>The African American Experience</i>	Black Dog & Leventhal/ Kai Wright	2009	9781579127732	Hard copy
<i>The Norton Anthology of African American Literature</i>	W.W. Norton & Company/ Henry Louis Gates, Jr. & Valerie A. Smith	2014	039392369X	Copies

**Supplementary Materials:**

Documentaries

Films

Newspaper articles

Historical documents

**Units of Study:**

The Divided Selves of the African

The Underground Sings

Freedom for Mind, Body, & Soul

The Strivers' Movement

**Proficiencies:**

By the end of this course, students will:

- improve close reading and analytical strategies through careful annotation and Cornell note taking;
- employ a wide variety of writing strategies and techniques;
- improve organization in writing through the use of rhetorical modes and appeals to improve coherence;
- effectively state, support, and explain their claims in both formal and informal arguments, in written and oral presentations;
- develop cross-curricular connections through discussion, inquiry, and writing;
- cite primary and secondary sources using MLA guidelines.

**Evaluation & Assessment:**

- Marking period grades for this course will be determined as follows:
  - 45% - **Tests/Quizzes/Seminars** (Socratic seminars, written assessments such as multiple choice, short answer responses, reading checks, note checks, written assessments (multiple choice, short answer responses, etc.)
  - 40% - **Projects/Essays/Research** (group projects, presentations, high stakes writing like essays, reports, speeches, research papers, etc.)
  - 15% - **Homework/Classwork** (dialectical notes, annotations of text, reading, Q&A, journaling, discussions, pair/group work, reading, reflection, note taking, etc.)
- Rubrics / criteria for evaluation will be provided for each writing assignment and project.
- Writing portfolios are used in the classroom. Students are to file and store their work in the portfolio for review and assessment, which will periodically be conducted by both the student and the teacher.
- The final grade for the course will consist of each marking period (45% each) average and the final exam (10%) grade.