

Montclair High School
Course Syllabus

Department: English

Course: African American Literature II

Level: Honors, 11th & 12th 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 Harlem Renaissance to today.

Standards:

NJSLS:

- Reading Literature: 11-12. 1-10
- Reading Informational: 11-12. 1-10
- Writing: 11-12. 1-10
- Speaking & Listening: 11-12. 1-6
- Language: 11-12.1-6

Anchor Text(s):

Text Title	Publisher/Author	Year/Edition	ISBN	Text Distribution
<i>The African American Experience</i>	Black Dog & Leventhal/ Kai Wright	2009	9781579127732	Copies
<i>The Norton Anthology of African American Literature</i>	W.W. Norton & Company/ Henry Louis Gates, Jr. & Valerie A. Smith	2014	039392369X	Copies
Invisible Man	Ralph Ellison	1980	0-679-73276-4	Hard Copy

Supplementary Materials:

- Documentaries
- Films
- Newspaper articles
- Historical documents

Units of Study:

- The Civil Rights Movement and Postmodernism
- The Black Arts Movement
- The Black Feminist Movement
- The Third Renaissance
- Contemporary Issues Surrounding Race and Ethnicity

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:
- 30% - Tests/Essays/Research (group projects, presentations, high stakes writing like essays, reports, speeches, research papers, etc.)
- 20% - Projects (group projects, student teaching, class presentations)
- 20% - Classwork (Socratic seminars, short answer responses, open-ended responses, note checks, current events)
- 15% - Quizzes (multiple choice, fill-in, short answer, and unannounced reading checks)
- 15% - Homework (annotations of text, guiding questions, reading, Q&A, journaling, discussion preparation, 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.

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English Department

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