

Black American Literatures Section 01

ENGL 165

Fall 2024 4 Unit(s) 08/21/2024 to 12/09/2024 Modified 07/31/2024

Contact Information

Email: allison.johnson@sjsu.edu

Course Information

Tuesday, Thursday, 10:30AM - 11:45AM, Sweeney Hall 413

Course Description and Requisites

Focused study of a topic in ethnic American Literature, such as African American, Asian American, Latino American, or ethnic autobiography. Topics change; check schedule of classes for current offering.

Course may be repeated for credit for a total of 8 units.

Prerequisite(s): Upper division standing.

Letter Graded

Classroom Protocols

Every student will come to class prepared for a critical discussion. Every student will read all of the assigned readings, come to every class meeting, engage with the texts and participate in the discussion, offer interpretations, ask and answer questions, and be respectful to other students. Please email me if you are unable to attend.

Canvas and MYSJSU Messaging

All course materials are on the course homepage on Canvas. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU on [Spartan App Portal](http://one.sjsu.edu) (<http://one.sjsu.edu>) to learn of any updates.

Paper Regulations

Write your papers in double-spaced 12pt. Times New Roman font, and format them according to MLA guidelines. The OWL site produced by Purdue (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/>) provides good examples of MLA citations. **Late papers will be marked down 1/3 letter grade per day (including weekends).**

Office Hours and Email Policies

I encourage you to meet with me during my virtual office hours to receive assistance on assignments and papers, and ask me questions. You can email me if you are unable to meet me during my designated hours.

Plagiarism Policy

If you plagiarize, you will receive an automatic 0 grade. Please make sure you cite your sources using proper MLA format! **If you use AI to write your paper, you will receive an automatic 0 grade.** You are not allowed to submit papers you have already submitted to other classes.

“San José State University defines cheating as the act of obtaining credit, attempting to obtain credit, or assisting others to obtain credit for academic work through the use of any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means.”

“San José State University defines plagiarism as the act of representing the work of another as one’s own without giving appropriate credit, regardless of how that work was obtained, and submitting it to fulfill academic requirements.”

For full definition, see <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-7.pdf>

Program Information

The following statement has been adopted by the Department of English for inclusion in all syllabi: In English Department Courses, instructors will comment on and grade the quality of student writing as well as the quality of ideas being conveyed. All student writing should be distinguished by correct grammar and punctuation, appropriate diction and syntax, and well-organized paragraphs. The Department of English reaffirms its commitment to the differential grading scale as defined in the SJSU Catalog ("The Grading System").

Grades issued must represent a full range of student performance:

- A = excellent;
- B = above average;
- C = average;
- D = below average;
- F = failure.

Within any of the letter grade ranges (e.g. B+/B/B-), the assignment of a +(plus) or -(minus) grade will reflect stronger (+) or weaker (-) completion of the goals of the assignment.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)

Upon successful completion of an undergraduate degree program in the Department of English and Comparative Literature, students will be able to:

1. Read closely in a variety of forms, styles, structures, and modes, and articulate the value of close reading in the study of literature, creative writing, or rhetoric.
2. Show familiarity with major literary works, genres, periods, and critical approaches to British, American, and World Literature.
3. Write clearly, effectively, and creatively, and adjust writing style appropriately to the content, the context, and nature of the subject.
4. Develop and carry out research projects, and locate, evaluate, organize, and incorporate information effectively.
5. Articulate the relations among culture, history, and texts, including structures of power.

Department Information:

Department Name: English and Comparative Literature

Department Office: FO 102

Department Website: www.sjsu.edu/english (<https://www.sjsu.edu/english>)

Department email: english@sjsu.edu (<mailto:english@sjsu.edu>)

Department phone number: 408-924-4425

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

CLO 1: Read closely in a variety of forms, styles, structures, and modes, and articulate the value of close reading in the study of African American print culture and literature.

CLO 2: Show familiarity with major literary works, genres, periods, and critical approaches to African American Literature, gaining an awareness of the range of cultural experiences and productions that make up African American literary and cultural history.

CLO 3: Write clearly, effectively, and creatively, and adjust writing style appropriately to the content, the context, and nature of the subject and in a range of forms.

CLO 4: Develop and carry out an extended research project, locate, evaluate, organize, and incorporate information effectively.

CLO 5: Articulate the relation between particular texts and their cultural, historical, and geographical contexts.

CLOs 1, 2, and 5 will be acquired via the reading assignments and class participation, while CLOs 2-5 will be acquired and demonstrated through each and every one of the written course assignments.

Course Materials

All books available at SJSU Bookstore. All other readings are available on the course website.

Iola Leroy, or, Shadows Uplifted

Author: Frances Ellen Watkins Harper

Publisher: Dover

ISBN: 9780486479019

Clotel or, the Presidents Daughter

Author: William Wells Brown

Publisher: Penguin

ISBN: 9780142437728

Course Requirements and Assignments

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (3 hours per unit per week) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities. Because this is a 4-unit course, students can expect to spend a minimum of twelve hours per week preparing for and attending classes and completing course assignments.

Newspaper Profile and Presentation, 11/10

20% [CLOs 1-5]

Midterm, 10/3

20% [CLOs 1, 2, 3, 4]

Research Paper, 11/24

25% [CLOs 1, 2, 3, 5]

Final Exam, 12/13

20% [1, 2, 3, 5]

Participation

10% [CLOs 1, 2, 5]

Discussion Posts

5% [CLO 3]

✓ Grading Information

The following statement has been adopted by the Department of English for inclusion in all syllabi: *In English Department Courses, instructors will comment on and grade the quality of student writing as well as the quality of ideas being conveyed. All student writing should be distinguished by correct grammar and punctuation, appropriate diction and syntax, and well-organized paragraphs. The Department of English reaffirms its commitment to the differential grading scale as defined in the SJSU Catalog ("The Grading System"). Grades issued must represent a full range of student performance: A = excellent; B = above average; C = average; D = below average; F = failure.*

In written assignments for English 60, this scale is based on the following criteria:

A [90-92=A-, 93-96=A, 97-100=A+] = Excellent: The "A" essay is articulate and well developed with fluid transitions and a clear and persuasive use of evidence, which is drawn from the literary text itself, lecture materials (when appropriate), and research materials. An "A" essay contains a fresh insight that teaches the reader something new about the subject matter.

B [80-82=B-, 83-86=B, 87-89=B+] Above average: The "B" essay demonstrates a good understanding of its subject, a clear and persuasive use of evidence, a certain level of ease of expression, and solid organization. However, it usually lacks the level of originality and creativity that characterizes the insight found in an "A" essay.

C [70-72=C-, 73-76=C, 77-79=C+] = Average: The "C" essay makes a good attempt at all the assignment's requirements. It has a reasonable understanding of its subject matter but its ideas are frequently simplistic or over-generalized. The writing style is also more bland and repetitive than the style shown by "A" and "B" essays and it often contains flaws in grammar, punctuation, spelling and/or word choice. It may also use textual evidence out of context.

D [60-62=D-, 63-66=D, 67-69=D+] = Below average: The "D" essay is poorly organized and generally unclear. It has inappropriate or inadequate examples, is noticeably superficial or simplistic, and/or contains some serious mechanical and grammatical problems. A "D" essay may also reveal some misunderstanding of the assignment requirements.

F = Failure: An "F" essay has not addressed the requirements of the assignment and is unacceptable work in terms of both form and content.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance,

counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule

You should come to class having read the material listed on that day.

When	Topic	Notes
Week 1 08/22/2024 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM		Introduction to Course
Week 2 08/27/2024 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM		"African American Spirituals," from <i>Slave Songs of the United States</i> (1867)
Week 2 08/29/2024 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM		Briton Hammon, "A Narrative of the Uncommon Sufferings" (1760) Jupiter Hammon, "An Address to the Negroes in New York" (1787)
Week 3 09/03/2024 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM		Phillis Wheatley, <i>Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral</i> (1773)
Week 3 09/05/2024 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM		George Moses Horton, <i>The Hope of Liberty</i> (1829)
Week 4 09/10/2024 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM		David Walker, <i>Walker's Appeal</i> (1829), articles 1-2
Week 4 09/12/2024 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM		Walker, <i>Walker's Appeal</i> (1829), articles 3-4 Maria W. Stewart, "Lecture Delivered at the Franklin Hall, Boston, September 21, 1832" (1832)

When	Topic	Notes
Week 5 09/17/2024 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM		William Wells Brown, <i>Clotel</i> (1853), chapters 1-8
Week 5 09/19/2024 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM		Brown, <i>Clotel</i> (1853), chapters 9-18
Week 6 09/24/2024 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM		Brown, <i>Clotel</i> (1853), finish book
Week 6 09/26/2024 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM		Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, <i>Poems on Miscellaneous Subjects</i> (1854)
Week 7 10/01/2024 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM		Midterm review
Week 7 10/03/2024 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM		Midterm
Week 8 10/08/2024 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM		Frederick Douglass, <i>My Bondage and My Freedom</i> (1855), chapters I-VI
Week 8 10/10/2024 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Douglass	Douglass, <i>My Bondage and My Freedom</i> (1855), chapters VII-XV
Week 9 10/15/2024 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Douglass	Douglass, <i>My Bondage and My Freedom</i> (1855), chapters XVI-XX

When	Topic	Notes
Week 9 10/17/2024 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Douglass	Douglass, <i>My Bondage and My Freedom</i> (1855), finish
Week 10 10/22/2024 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	USCT	Douglass, selections from <i>Douglass's Paper</i> , <i>North Star</i> , and <i>Douglass's Monthly</i> United States Colored Troops in print Poems about 54 th Massachusetts
Week 10 10/24/2024 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Black newspapers	Selections from Black newspapers
Week 11 10/29/2024 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Jacobs	Harriet Jacobs, <i>Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl</i> (1861), pages 1-89
Week 11 10/31/2024 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Jacobs	Jacobs, <i>Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl</i> (1861), 90-167
Week 12 11/05/2024 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Black newspapers	Newspaper presentations
Week 12 11/07/2024 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Black newspapers	Newspaper presentations
Assignment Week 12, 11/10	Newspaper Profile	Submit via Canvas by 11:59 pm
Week 13 11/12/2024 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Harper	Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, <i>Iola Leroy, or Shadows Uplifted</i> (1892), chapters I-X

When	Topic	Notes
Week 13 11/14/2024 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Harper	Harper, <i>Iola Leroy, or Shadows Uplifted</i> (1892), chapters XI-XX
Week 14 11/19/2024 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Harper	Harper, <i>Iola Leroy, or Shadows Uplifted</i> (1892), finish
Week 14 11/21/2024 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Lynch Law	Ida B. Wells, from <i>The Red Record</i> (1895)
Assignment	Research Paper, 11/24	Submit via Canvas by 11:59 pm
Week 15 11/26/2024 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Chesnutt	Charles Chesnutt, from <i>The Wife of His Youth and Other Stories of the Color Line</i> (1899): "The Wife of His Youth," "The Sheriff's Children," "The Passing of Grandison"
Week 15 11/28/2024 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Thanksgiving	No class!
Week 16 12/03/2024 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Chesnutt	Charles Chesnutt, from <i>The Conjure Woman</i> (1899): "The Goophered Grapevine," "Po' Sandy," "Sis' Becky's Pickaninny"
Week 16 12/05/2024 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Review	Final Exam review
Assignment	Final Exam, 12/13	9:45 AM-12:00 PM