

Bossier Parish Community College
Master Syllabus

Course Prefix and Number: ENGL 257 **Credit hours:** 3

Course Title: Introduction to African-American Literature

Course Prerequisites: ENGL 102, grade of “C” or better

Textbook(s): *The Norton Anthology of African-American Literature*, Third edition
Sula, Toni Morrison

Course Description: Introduction to African American literature that includes critical analysis and writing about literature. Students will read, analyze, discuss, and write about literary works by African-American writers during the periods of Reconstruction, the rise of the “New Negro,” the Harlem Renaissance, black realism, modernism, and post-modernism. The Louisiana Statewide Common Course Catalog name and number for this course are CENL 2403: Intro to African American Literature.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the student will be able to

- A. read and analyze significant literary works by African American writers;
- B. develop and sharpen critical thinking and writing skills through discussions and essay assignments;
- C. define major literary movements in African American literary works and understand the historical and social contexts important to African American literature; and
- D. demonstrate ethical research, documentation, and library skills.

To achieve the learning outcomes, the student will

(The letter designations at the end of each statement refer to the learning outcome(s).)

1. discuss the content of works written by various African American writers (A, B, and C)
2. evaluate literary works through an analysis of genre, theme, character, and other literary devices (A, B, and C)
3. identify historical periods and explain the social and cultural contexts for the analyzed literary works (A and C)
4. write essays and give oral presentations based on a literary work (A, B, C, and D)
5. develop an acceptable research paper, which includes secondary sources, based on a literary work, using proper MLA format (A, B, C, and D)

Course Requirements: Each student is responsible for participating in class discussions and lectures, as well as completing quizzes, writing assignments, critical essays, comprehensive exams, and oral presentations to explore ideas, historical and social contexts, themes, and literary elements important to the African American literary tradition.

Course Grading Scale:	90 – 100	A
	80 – 89	B
	70 – 79	C
	60 – 69	D
	0 – 59	F

Course Fee: None

Nondiscrimination Statement

Bossier Parish Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, qualified disability, marital status, veteran's status, or sexual orientation in admission to its programs, services, or activities, in access to them, in treatment of individuals, or in any aspect of its operations. Bossier Parish Community College does not discriminate in its hiring or employment practices.

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