WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE TITLE: African American Literature

COURSE NUMBER: LIT 333

Faculty Name:

Contact Information:

Pre-Requisite: ENG 122 or COM 245

Text/Software:

Credits: 3

45 Hours of Structured Learning Activities

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is a survey of African American literature from the 1700s to the present. Students will examine writings from their historical contexts, analyzing the social, economic, and political forces that influenced these works. They will also explore the influence of the literature and culture of African-Americans on American culture. Authors read in this class include Oladuah Equiano, Phyllis Wheatley, Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglass, Ida Wells Barnett, W.E.B. Du Bois, Zora Neal Hurston, Langston Hughes, Ralph Ellison, Gwendolyn Brooks, Malcom X, Martin Luther King, Jr., Audre Lorde and others. Students will learn how literary devices are used to create meaning for readers: plot, characterization, theme, point of view, symbol, irony, and figurative language. Students will engage in close reading: they will be asked to analyze literature inductively, using clues from the surface level of literature (literary devices) to create larger truths they see in the literature. Student analysis of literature will be expressed through essays, presentations, and other activities.

At the conclusion of this course students will be asked to evaluate the course based on the following objectives:

IDEA 7 Gain a broader understanding and appreciation of intellectual/cultural activity (music, science, literature, etc.). (E)
IDEA 8 Develop skill in expressing oneself orally or in writing. (I)
IDEA 11 Learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view. (I)
COURSE GOALS:

GOAL A:
Analyze how literary devices such as setting, plot, characters, themes, symbols, irony and figurative language are used to create meaning in African-American literature.

Learning Objectives: The student will
- A-2 Communicate analysis of texts in analytic and reflective writing.

GOAL B:
Analyze text through close reading, inductive logic and various cultural frameworks, such as history, politics, religion and economics.

Learning Objectives: The student will
- B-1 Interpret, analyze, and critique examples of African-American literature through the lens of cultural analysis.
- B-2 Communicate analysis of texts in analytic and reflective writing.

GOAL C:
Design a project that synthesizes literature from this class thematically with other media, cultures, and times.

Learning Objectives: The student will
- C-1 Gather works of art from different media (art, music, literature, movies, TV, and online), and through milestones, analyze how these works connect thematically to African-American literature.
- C-2 Communicate integration and synthesis of texts and media through an analytic presentation and reflective writing.

EVALUATION PROCEDURE AND GRADING POLICY:

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY:

CAS CLASSROOM STANDARDS: See Blackboard “Syllabus” area

COURSE SCHEDULE (all assignments/exams and due dates):