Moberly Area Community College
Common Syllabus

LAL125 African-American Literature

Current Term

Instructor:
Office number:
Office hours:
Contact information:
Classroom number:
Class days and time:

Catalog Description: *LAL125 African-American Literature (3-0-3)
This course is a study of African-American literature through the examination of historical implications and genre contributions of major African-American writers. Course emphasizes the reading, interpretation, and criticism of major works. (IN)

Prerequisite: None

Text: Title: The Norton Anthology of African-American Literature V1 & 2
Author: Gates
Edition: 3rd Edition 2014
Publisher: Norton
ISBN: 978-0-393-91155-8

Recommended: Dictionary, Thesaurus, Style Book (Associated Press)

Other Required Materials: E-mail Access, CD-ROM/Player Access

Purpose of Course: Introduce students to a basic survey of African-American Literature through the examination of historical implications and genre contributions of major African-Americans.

Course Objectives: The student should gain a familiarity with the group of writers and representative works, develop critical understandings of the literature and its relation to a particularized American experience, and increase his/her skill in reading literature and writing about it. The student should be able to:

- Recognize the various means for recording history.
- Sharpen observation and listening skills.
- Realize the importance of non-print evidence in studying history.
- Develop the ability to analyze and interpret historical data.
- Participate in historical inquiry, including the gathering, organizing, and analysis of facts and data.
• Utilize the imagination to understand the past through observation and participation in theatrical performances.
• Explore the way design can express attitudes and beliefs.
• Participate in oral history.
• Distinguish between fact and opinion.

Course Content: The course will begin with an introduction to the Vernacular Tradition of the African Diaspora and will include the study of folk songs and tales. Survey of this literature will take place from both an historical and genre approach and should be considered a reading intensive course. Genres to be considered will include oral traditions, sermons, slave narrative, non-fiction, fiction and drama. Each genre will be considered in of the following historical periods:

• The Vernacular Tradition – mid 1700’s.
• Literature of the Reconstruction to the New Negro Renaissance: 1865 – 1919.
• Harlem Renaissance: 1919 – 1940.
• Realism, Naturalism, Modernism: 1940 – 1960.
• Literature Since 1970.
• Women’s Work in Literature: 1980 – present.

Assessment of Student Learning: Graded will be based on an evaluation of contributions to and interest in the classroom environment, tests covering text readings and lectures, quizzes on oral presentations, attendance and class participation. The breakdown will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Literature Presentation &amp; Essay</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Oral Report</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam #1</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam #2</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Quiz</td>
<td>50 (10 quizzes @ 5 points each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genre &amp; Historical Essays</td>
<td>200 (8 essays @ 25 points each)</td>
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</tbody>
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Grading Scale:
A = 90 – 100
B = 80 - 89
C = 70 - 79
D = 60 - 69
F = 59 and below

Expected Study Time Commitments: Students should expect to spend approximately 2 to 4 hours per week studying, reading, and working on assignments for each registered credit hour. For example, 6 to 12 study hours per week may be expected for a 3 credit hour class.
Description of Major Assignment(s)/Project(s): Per instructor’s policy

Schedule of Student Assignment and Activities: Per instructor’s policy

Statement to Connect Course with General Education Outcomes: In compliance with MACC’s General Education Outcomes, the student who successfully completes this course will be able to:

- Managing Information: Students will demonstrate the ability to discern when there is a need for information; and to identify, locate, evaluate, and effectively and responsibly use and share that information for the problem at hand.
- Valuing: Students will demonstrate the ability to understand the moral and ethical values of a diverse society; and to appreciate the values of diversity, equity, and sustainability.

College / Instructor Policies:

Academic Dishonesty: MACC board policy is as follows: “Academic dishonesty by students damages institutional credibility and unfairly jeopardizes honest students; therefore, it will not be tolerated in any form.” Forms of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to the following: violations of copyright law, plagiarism, fabrication, cheating, collusion, and other academic misconduct. Incidents of dishonesty regarding assignments, examinations, classroom/laboratory activities, and/or the submission of misleading or false information to the College will be treated seriously. The procedure for handling academic dishonesty is outlined in the Student Handbook (Policy Handbook M.010). In cases of alleged academic dishonesty, the burden of proof is on the student, not on the instructor.

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend all class sessions for which they are enrolled. The College reserves the right to drop or withdraw students from courses due to lack of attendance.

Students need to be aware that dropping/being dropped from a course and their last date of attendance in the course may impact their financial aid.

MACC faculty are required to track attendance and report lack of attendance. An instructor must complete the appropriate steps to drop a student within one week following the student’s violation of the attendance policy. Additionally, a student’s attendance rate will be calculated based upon the first day the academic session begins (not the student’s date of enrollment in the course). If a student does not attend a course as defined below, the student will be dropped as “Never Attended.”

Term Length Drop Calculations

16-week: Any student who misses two (2) consecutive weeks of class will be dropped from the course by the instructor unless acceptable justification is provided by the student and the student still has the opportunity to be successful in the course.

8-week: Any student who misses one (1) consecutive week of class will be dropped from the course by the instructor unless acceptable justification is provided by
the student and the student still has the opportunity to be successful in the course.

4-week: Any student who misses two (2) consecutive days of class will be dropped from the course by the instructor unless acceptable justification is provided by the student and the student still has the opportunity to be successful in the course.

Intersession: Any student who misses one (1) day of class will be dropped from the course by the instructor unless acceptable justification is provided by the student and the student still has the opportunity to be successful in the course.

Acceptable justification may include, but is not limited to, family emergencies, illness or injury, college-approved co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, and religious holidays.

**Definition of Course Attendance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In Seat Course</th>
<th>Physically attending scheduled, face-to-face, class meetings</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Virtual Course</td>
<td>Being present, via appropriate platform, for scheduled class meetings/activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hybrid Course</td>
<td>Physically attending scheduled, face-to-face, class meetings and active participation in the online portion of the course which may include any or all of the following:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Completion of quizzes or exams during class meetings and online</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Submission of assignments during class meetings and online</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Participation in discussions during class meetings and online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Course</td>
<td>Active participation in an online course includes the following:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Completion of quizzes or exams</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Submission of assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Participation in threaded discussions</td>
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Simply logging into the Learning Management System (Canvas) and/or accessing the course and course related material does not constitute active participation for the online component of hybrid courses or for online courses. (*Policy Handbook*, I.090 & M.095)

**Tardiness:** Per instructor’s policy

**Make-up and late work:** Per instructor’s policy

**Extra-Credit:** Per instructor’s policy

**Student Email:** MACC Mail is the official student email system at MACC. Official college communication is sent via this email system. Students are responsible for checking their MACC Mail
account regularly. Students may also receive notifications and reminders from MACC through the online learning platform. However, students should remain aware that the online learning platform messaging system and MACC Mail (student email) system are two separate systems.

**ADA Statement:** Students who have disabilities that qualify under the Americans with Disabilities Act may register for assistance through the Office of Access and ADA Services. Students are invited to contact the Access Office to confidentially discuss disability information, academic accommodations, appropriate documentation and procedures. For more information, please call either the Moberly office at (660) 263-4100 x 11240 or the Columbia office at (573) 234-1067 x 12120, or visit our web page at [http://www.macc.edu/index.php/services/access-office](http://www.macc.edu/index.php/services/access-office).

**Title IX Statement:** MACC maintains a strict policy prohibiting sexual misconduct in any form, including sexual harassment, sexual discrimination, and sexual violence. All MACC employees, including faculty members, are considered mandated reporters of sexual misconduct and as such are expected to contact the Title IX Coordinator when they become aware, in conversation or in writing, of an incident of sexual misconduct. For more information on this policy or to learn about support resources, please see [http://www.macc.edu/sexual-misconduct-policy](http://www.macc.edu/sexual-misconduct-policy) (links to an external site) or contact Ms. Cheryl Lybarger, MACC’s Title IX Coordinator, at 660-263-4110, ext. 11369 or CherylLybarger@macc.edu.