Moberly Area Community College
Common Syllabus

LAL125H African-American Literature Honors

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

Catalog Description: *LAL125H African-American Literature Honors    (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. This course uses minimal instructor lecture and emphasizes student participation and discussion. (IN)

Prerequisite: Student must meet the criteria for admission into the Honors Program.

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

Other Required Materials: CD-ROM/Player Access

Recommended Materials: CD, Floppy Disc, flash drive, or other external memory

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.
- Participate in historical inquiry, including the gathering, organizing, and analysis of facts and data.
- Develop the ability to analyze and interpret historical data.
• Discuss sociological and historical interpretation and understanding of African American Literature.
• Utilize the imagination to understand the past.
• Participate in oral history.
• Distinguish between fact and opinion.
• Use the Socratic Method to derive meaning from texts.

Course Content: The course will begin with an introduction to the Vernacular Tradition 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 the following historical periods:

• The Vernacular Tradition in all time periods
• Literature of Slavery and Freedom: 1746 – 1865.
• Literature of the Reconstruction to the New Negro Renaissance: 1865 – 1919.
• Harlem Renaissance: 1919 – 1940.
• Realism, Naturalism, Modernism: 1940 – 1960.
• Literature Since 1975.

Assessment of Student Learning:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Item</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In Class Writing (5 @ 20 points)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historical Background Presentation</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socratic Seminar Session</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper (Literary Analysis)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
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TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE 600

Grading Scale

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A – 90-100%</td>
<td>540-600 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B – 80-89%</td>
<td>480-539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C – 70-79%</td>
<td>420-479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D – 60-69%</td>
<td>360-419</td>
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<tr>
<td>F – 0-59%</td>
<td>359 and below</td>
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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):

**In Class Writing:** Short responses to essay questions give 5 times over the term. These will be given at the start of the period and may not be made up except in the case of an excused absence.

**Historical Background Presentation:**
Each student will choose one of the 6 Historical time periods: Literature of Slavery and Freedom: 1746 – 1865, Literature of the Reconstruction to the New Negro Renaissance: 1865 – 1919, Harlem Renaissance: 1919 – 1940, Realism, Naturalism, Modernism: 1940 – 1960. The Black Arts Movement: 1960 – 1970. or Literature Since 1975 and develop a presentation on that time period and how the political, social, economic and other forces of the time influenced African American Literature in that time period. This project may be assigned to individuals or groups, depending on the size of the class.

**Socratic Seminar Leader:**
Each student will take a turn at leading a Socratic Seminar about a literary work of their choice. Students will be given explicit instructions and coaching on how to conduct a Socratic Seminar as part of the introduction to the course.

**Research Paper:**
This will be a 5-6 page literary analysis on a work of African American Literature from the reading list. Student will use outside sources to support his/her thesis about the work. Paper will be in MLA format.

**Midterm Exam and Final Exam:**
These will consist of a question/s that can be answered with a short literary analysis.

**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>
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<tr>
<th>In Seat Course</th>
<th>Physically attending scheduled, face-to-face, class meetings</th>
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Virtual Course
Being present, via appropriate platform, for scheduled class meetings/activities

Hybrid Course
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:

- Completion of quizzes or exams during class meetings and online
- Submission of assignments during class meetings and online
- Participation in discussions during class meetings and online

Online Course
Active participation in an online course includes the following:

- Completion of quizzes or exams
- Submission of assignments
- Participation in threaded discussions

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)

Instructor’s Attendance Policy: In my opinion, the MACC policy is extremely lenient. Regular attendance is expected of all students. Attendance is one of the most important measures of your interest and desire to do well academically. Your attendance helps me facilitate better discussions and your fellow students benefit from your ideas and experiences.

Unforeseen circumstances occasionally dictate that you must miss class; please make every effort to discuss such circumstances with me before the absence. Remember that if you are not in class, you are absent – regardless of the reason – and that you are still responsible for all in-class assignments made. I am not responsible for providing this information to you – you must plan ahead with another student who would agree to share notes, etc., with you and vice versa. I will also provide you with the information but you must take the initiative to get it from me.

Tardiness: Please be on time to class; to be tardy is to be disrespectful to me and your classmates. Tardiness is defined as arriving after attendance has been taken or leaving before class has been dismissed. Three tardies will be equal to 1 (one) absence. The fourth and subsequent tardies will result in your being counted absent for the day you are late. If you come to class after I have taken attendance, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO COME TO ME AND MAKE SURE I CHANGE YOUR “ABSENT” TO A “PRESENT” AT THE END OF CLASS THAT SAME DAY. Otherwise the absence will remain even though you attended part of the class session.

Make-up and late work: All assignments are due at the beginning of the class period unless I state otherwise ahead of time. I will accept late assignments; the grade will decline by 10 points for each class day it is late.
Extra-Credit: There are no opportunities to complete extra credit work. We will do plenty of regularly assigned work this semester. Stay on top of it and you will be fine.

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.

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 (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.