

Course Title: **Survey of African American Literature**

Course Prefix: ENGL

Course No.: 3053

Section No.: P01

Department of Languages & Communication

College of Arts & Sciences

Instructor Name: **Dr. Marzette Stuckey**  
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Office Hours: W 10-4:00 p.m and T & R 1:50 – 3:20 p.m.

Course Location: **W.R. Banks 205**

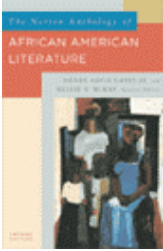
Class Meeting Days | Times: **T & R 12:30 – 1:50 p.m.**

Catalog Description: Critical examination of selected oral and written prose focused on the African American experience from the colonial period through the Negro Renaissance, as well as one selected contemporary work. There will be an emphasis on literary analysis within historical and cultural contexts.

Prerequisites: ENGL 1123 and 1133 or 1143 with a minimum grade of "C"

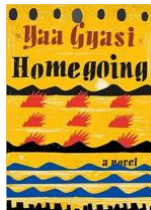
Co-requisites: none

Required Texts:



*The Norton Anthology of African American Literature* Vol. 1, 2nd Edition. Eds. Henry Louis Gates and Valerie Smith. ISBN 0-393-97778-1 (approx. \$20)

and



*Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi. Vintage Books (2017). ISBN-10: 1101971061 (approx.. \$10)

Recommended Text/Readings:

Always read the introductory section to each literary period. They provide invaluable information and hold much of the answers that I use to compose the exams. Also, the selected bibliographies on 1383 and the timeline on 1373 are invaluable. The former for pivotal criticism and the latter for historical and cultural context.

Access to Learning Resources:

PVAMU Library:

phone: (936) 261-1500;

web: <http://pvamu.edu/pages/3585.asp>

University Bookstore:

phone: (936) 261-1990;

web: <https://www.bkstr.com/Home/10001-10734-1?demoKey=d>

Course Goals or Overview:

In this course, we will encounter the richly diverse collection of African American artists and their creative works. Furthermore, we will be guided by an attention to formal elements in the literature and by socio-historical contexts. An on-going challenge will be to develop and cultivate skills in critical reading, thinking, and writing. In short, the course aims to foster the skills needed to introduce you to major works, themes, characteristics, and concerns of the African American literary

canon; identify and analyze the form, structure, and stylistics of a variety of literary genres within the African American literary canon; write critically on literary works of each major historical period (The Vernacular Tradition through Negro Renaissance Period); and configure literary works within the cultural and socio-historical contexts.

#### Course Outcomes/Objectives

At the end of this course, the student will

- 1 Understand and identify the primary themes and characteristics of major literary movements in the African American literary canon (ENGL PLO 3; Core Humanities A & F)
- 2 Make meaningful comparisons/contrasts among works of African American literature and artistic expression (ENGL PLOs 2 & 3; Core Humanities A)
- 3 Apply critical thinking and selected critical theory to works of African American literature (ENGL PLOs 1 & 2; Core Humanities C)
- 4 Situate literary works with respect to their historical, social, and cultural contexts (ENGL PLO 1; Core Humanities B)

#### Course Requirements & Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

Grades will be based on a "standard" scale: 100-90= A, 89-80= B, 79-70= C . . . 59-0= F. Assignments are worth a total of 100 percentage points and are weighed as follows:

- Daily Preparedness, Engagement & Insight..... 10%
- Quizzes: from the Introductions to selected Literary Periods found in our Anthology (NAAAL)
  - *Talking Books*.....10%
  - Literature of Slavery & Freedom.....10%
  - Literature of the Reconstruction.....10%
  - Lit. of the Harlem Renaissance.....10%
- Midterm Writing Assignment ..... 15%
- Reading & Research Presentations..... 15%
- Critical Reviews (about *Homegoing*).....10%
- Final Writing Assignment (due by Dec 15) ..... 10%

#### Course Procedures

##### Submission of Assignments:

##### Formatting Documents:

Microsoft Word is the standard word processing tool used at PVAMU. If you're using other word processors, be sure to use the "save as" tool and save the document in either the Microsoft Word, Rich-Text, or plain text format. All essays should use 12-point Times or Times New Roman and 1-inch margins in keeping with MLA 2009 format.

##### Exam and Activity Policy:

If you arrive after an activity has concluded, you cannot make it up without a verifiable University approved excuse as outlined in the Student Handbook policy. Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except under verifiable and documented emergencies (see Student Handbook). If you have a University event or the like on the day of an exam, arrange to take it early.

Extra Credit Policy:

No extra credit will be available in this course. Focus on doing your best work on each assignment.

Professional Organizations and Journals

<http://www.ncte.org> (National Council of Teachers of English, NCTE)

<http://www.cla.org> (College Language Association, CLA)

<http://www.mla.org> (Modern Language Association, MLA)

### Tentative Reading & Scholarly Activity Schedule

Week 1: T and R	T Introduction & Syllabus Read: Introduction "Talking Books" (xxxviii). Read closely.* R Continue to discuss "Talking Books"
Week 2: T	Review & discuss essential characteristics & themes of African American Oral Tradition
	T QUIZ: on "Talking Books" R Read: Intro to the Vernacular Tradition Part 1 (6)  Study at least three of each: Spirituals, Work Songs, and Folktales <a href="#">for Tuesday</a>  For <a href="#">next Thurs.</a> : Also read the introductions to the Introductions of Frederick Douglass (p 326), Sojourner Truth (p 176), and William Wells Brown (p 261),
Week 3:  *	T Discuss and Respond to Vernacular Chapter; focus on works you have studied as well as listen to selections from Audio CD ( <i>those with a new text should get w purchase</i> )  R Continue discussion of the Vernacular  <i>Late Deadline to Apply for Graduation _____</i> <i>Last Day to Withdraw from Course(s) without Academic Record _____</i>  Read Intro. to <i>Slavery and Freedom</i> (p 75) and the Introductions of Harriet Jacobs (p 220), David Walker (p 159), Harriet Wilson (p 472)
Week 4:	T In-Class Writing on <i>Slavery &amp; Freedom</i> Intro.  R The Slave Narrative Structure and Mission Read:
Week 5	T Slavery & Freedom Selected Works  R Slavery & Freedom Selected Works  Read Intro. to Reconstruction, 1865-1919 (p 505); Introduction to WEB DuBois (p 679) and WEB DuBois's <i>Souls of Black Folk</i> Ch. 111 "Of Mr. Booker T. Washington and Others" (p 694)
Week 6	
	In-Class Writing on Intro. to Reconstruction  Discuss: Booker T. Washington's Atlanta Exposition Address (594); W.E. B DuBois's <i>Souls of Black Folk</i> (692-729). Read WEB DuBois' Introduction and <i>Souls of Black Folk</i>

Week 7:	
In-Class Essay*	T Continue discussing DuBois and Washington R IDENTITY and "PASSING" Read: Introduction to James Weldon Johnson's Autobiography of an Ex-Coloured Man (792) Lift Every Voice and Sing (783), The Creation (790); Intro. to Charles Chestnutt and Chestnutt 's works: <i>The Goophered Grapevine, The Passing of Grandison, The Wife of His Youth, and Dave's Neckliss</i> (580-610))
Week 8	PASSING
	T Discuss James Weldon Johnson's works assigned readings from last week R Discuss works of Charles Chestnutt
Week:9	T Finish Discussion and quick review of Midterm Writing Options R Discuss the Introduction to the Harlem Renaissance  Read: All reading from the Harlem Renaissance period next week.
Week 10:	Read Introduction to the Harlem (Negro) Renaissance <i>Be able to discuss in detail the major conflicts of the era as well as the major and minor authors of the period.</i> Read Alain Locke's <i>The New Negro</i> (p 973)  Know: The Great Migration and other elements of Negro Renaissance  <i>See the Table of Contents for the list of authors and their works from this period available in our text. You will be presenting orally on a work.</i>
Week 11	T Discuss the introduction material to the Harlem Renaissance with special emphasis on the philosophical differences of the major figures of that era.  R Discuss: Alain Locke's <i>The New Negro</i> (p 973) Discuss the "New Negro" philosophy Read Langston Hughes' <i>The Negro Artist &amp; the Racial Mountain</i> (1320) <i>When the Negro was In Vogue</i> (1324) and <i>Harlem Literati</i> (1330); Hurston's <i>How it Feels to be Colored Me</i> (1030), <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> (1070-1079) and Characteristics of Negro Expression (1041); George Schuyler's Negro-Art Hokum
Week 12	T Continue discussion of Locke's concept of The New Negro artist and begin to compare it with Hughes, Hurston, and others writers we will review.  R Discuss: Hughes' <i>The Negro Artist &amp; the Racial Mountain</i> ; Hurston's <i>How it Feels to be Colored Me</i> (1040) and Characteristics of Negro Expression (1041); Read: George Schuyler's Negro-Art Hokum (1221) compare with Alain Locke's arguments in <i>The New Negro</i> (973) and Hurston's views about negro expression (1041)
Week 13:	T Discussion of Hughes, Hurston, and Schuyler Note: Negro Renaissance Artistic Challenges  R Continue discussion of Renaissance Writers
Week 14:	T Oral Presentation(s) on Selected Negro Renaissance Writers  R <b>In-class writing</b> on <i>The New Negro</i> with examples from selected works
Week 15:	T Oral Presentation(s) on Selected Negro Renaissance Writers

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Week 16:	T any last presentations R No Class: Review for final research ALL FINAL WRITTEN WORK <b>Thursday, November 29, 2018</b>
Last Class Day	<b>Tuesday, December 4, 2018:</b> the last class day of our class
<b>Important Dates</b> are detailed on final page of syllabus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I will submit Graduating Candidates' grades into Panthertracks on <b>Thursday, Nov 29, 2018 by 11:59 p.m.</b></li> <li>Commencement for College of Arts &amp; Sciences <b>Saturday, Dec 15, 2018</b></li> </ul>

## University Rules and Procedures

### Disability statement (See Student Handbook):

Students with disabilities, including learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in class should register with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal laws, a student requesting special accommodations must provide documentation of their disability to the SSD coordinator.

### Academic misconduct (See Student Handbook):

You are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course and all other courses. Make sure you are familiar with your Student Handbook, especially the section on academic misconduct. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to university disciplinary procedures.

### Forms of academic dishonesty:

- Cheating: deception in which a student misrepresents that he/she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he/she has not mastered; giving or receiving aid unauthorized by the instructor on assignments or examinations.
- Academic misconduct: tampering with grades or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of a scheduled test.
- Fabrication: use of invented information or falsified research.
- Plagiarism: unacknowledged quotation and/or paraphrase of someone else's words, ideas, or data as one's own in work submitted for credit. Failure to identify information or essays from the Internet or other sources and submitting them as one's own work also constitutes plagiarism. Penalty for intentional plagiarism = a grade of "F" on the assignment, ranging between 0% and 59% depending on the severity and magnitude of plagiarism as determined by your instructor.

### Nonacademic misconduct (See Student Handbook)

The university respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires campus conditions that do not impede their exercise. Campus behavior that interferes with either (1) the instructor's ability to conduct the class, (2) the inability of other students to profit from the instructional program, or (3) campus behavior that interferes with the rights of others will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such disruptive behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Such incidents will be adjudicated by the Dean of Students under nonacademic procedures.

### Sexual misconduct (See Student Handbook):

Sexual harassment of students and employers at Prairie View A&M University is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Any member of the university community violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

#### Attendance Policy:

Prairie View A&M University requires regular class attendance. Excessive absences will result in lowered grades. Excessive absenteeism, whether excused or unexcused, may result in a student's course grade being reduced or in assignment of a grade of "F". Absences are accumulated beginning with the first day of class. In this class you are allowed 3 unexcused absences before your grade is affected. Starting with your 4th absence, you will lose 5% from your final course grade for each unexcused absence you incur. Tardies equal one-half an absence. You are tardy if you arrive after roll has been taken at the start of class or leave before roll is taken again at the end of class. Excused absences must be accompanied by an official University memo from your academic department, a University excuse from Evans Bldg. (Rm.301), or other official University documentation by the appropriate University representative responsible for your academic responsibilities.

#### Student Academic Appeals Process

Authority and responsibility for assigning grades to students rests with the faculty. However, in those instances where students believe that miscommunication, errors, or unfairness of any kind may have adversely affected the instructor's assessment of their academic performance, the student has a right to appeal by the procedure listed in the Undergraduate Catalog and by doing so within thirty days of receiving the grade or experiencing any other problematic academic event that prompted the complaint.

### **Dr. Marzette Stuckey's Course & Classroom Policies:**

- Prepare for a class environment of tolerance: respect others' culture, class, religious beliefs, traditions, sexual identity, etc., even if different from your own. I take this point seriously.
- Submission of work: Aside from in-class writing, most assignments will be submitted electronically through InSite.
- They must be formatted according to specified guidelines (APA / MLA) and meet all requirements set forth on the assignment prompts. Unless I state otherwise, assignments will NOT be accepted via email or hard copy because it can become confusing. Note the University's late policy. I will follow it.
- Absence Policy: Your fourth unexcused absence and each succeeding unexcused absence will result in a 3-point deduction from your final grade. Excused absences are those that are formally excused by the University as stated above.
  - I count 2 tardies as an absence.
  - Tardy = 5 - 10 minutes late. Do not be disruptive, if you enter tardy.
  - After the first 15 minutes, I will mark you as absent.
  - If you leave class before it is dismissed, I will mark you as absent. If you jeopardize or hinder others' learning by disruptive behavior, I will ask you to leave and not return without meeting with: **(1) Student Conduct Officer and (2) contact me to meet during my next scheduled office hour.** See *Student Handbook for Student Conduct Office location and contacts.*
- General Misconduct: I usually do not have behavioral misconduct in class. However, I will ask you to leave class immediately, and meet with me during my office hours before returning to the course.
- Academic Misconduct: Academic misconduct, and plagiarism in particular, will not be tolerated.
  - Assignments that include plagiarized material (intentionally or unintentionally) will receive a grade of F with the corresponding number grade of a [0].
  - Severe or repeated cases of intentional plagiarism will result in a grade of F in the course and a letter of reprimand in the student's permanent record.

- **Cell Phones:** Unless part of a classroom research activity, I will not use my cell phone; you should not either. It is distracting, and sometimes disrespectful, to use your cell phone to talk, text, or use during class. If this policy is ignored, it can become disruptive. I will ask you to leave the class quietly.
- I will adhere closely to the University's absence and late policies regarding all work and authorized excuses. **No exceptions** will be made. This includes make-up work, which is not offered.
- My classes run consecutively, but if I am more than 15 minutes late, there is an unforeseen problem. Leave class, but follow the syllabus schedule and check your eCourses email for any updates from me if this should occur.

Aug 27

First Class Day

Monday

Sep 03

Labor Day Holiday (University closed)

Monday

Sep 04

Class resumes

Tuesday

Sep 12

12th class day (Census Date)

Wednesday

Sep 12

Last day to withdraw from course(s) without academic record

Wednesday

Sep 13 - Nov 02

Withdrawal from course(s) with academic record ("W")

Thursday through  
Friday

Sep 19

Tuition payment deadline is 5:00 p.m. for all students who late registered and add/drop for fall semester

Wednesday

Sep 24

20th class day

Monday

Sep 25 - Dec 04

Submit application for Tuition Rebate for fall graduation undergraduate candidates

Tuesday through

Tuesday	
Oct 18 - Oct 20	
Thursday through Saturday	Mid-semester examination
Oct 23	
Tuesday	Mid-semester grades due by 11:59 p.m.
Oct 31	
Wednesday	Last day to apply for fall graduation (ceremony participation)
Nov 01 - Dec 04	
Thursday through Tuesday	Apply for degree conferral only for fall graduation (no ceremony participation or name listed in program)
Nov 02	
Friday	Last day for withdrawal from course(s) with academic record ("W")
Nov 05	
Monday	60% of term
Nov 12 - Nov 16	
Monday through Friday	Priority registration for continuing students for spring semester. <a href="https://www.pvamu.edu/registrar/priority-registration-schedule/">https://www.pvamu.edu/registrar/priority-registration-schedule/</a>
Nov 19 - Jan 11, 2019	
Monday through Friday	Pre-registration for all students for the spring semester
Nov 22 - Nov 24	
Thursday through Saturday	Thanksgiving Holidays (University closed)
Nov 26	Class resumes



Monday

Dec 03 - Dec 04

Monday through  
Tuesday

Course Review Days (classes must convene and instructors will prepare students for final exams)

Dec 04

Tuesday

Last day to apply for degree conferral only for fall graduation (no ceremony participation or name listed in program)

Dec 04

Tuesday

Last Class Day

Dec 04

Tuesday

Last day to submit application for Tuition Rebate for fall graduation undergraduate candidates

Dec 04

Tuesday

Last day to withdraw from the University

Dec 05 - Dec 11

Wednesday through  
Tuesday

Final Examinations

Dec 13

Thursday

Final grades due for graduation candidates by Noon

Dec 15

Saturday

Fall Commencement

Dec 18

Tuesday

Final grades due for all other students by 11.59 p.m.