ENGL 3345-001:

African-American Literature

Fall 2018

Instructor: Cedrick May
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Office Hours: Tu & Th 9:30-10:30am

Syllabus: cedrickmay.com/3345.pdf
Section Information: ENGL 3345-001
Time and Place of Class Meetings:
Tremble Hall, Room 202,
Tu/Th 8:00-9:20am,
August 23 - December 4

Description of Course Content:
This course is designed to familiarize students with a range of African American literature, from some of the earliest autobiographical writings to literary works of the present. We will study a number of genres throughout the semester, from Black autobiographies to Black westerns, slave narratives to science fiction novels.

One of the objectives of this course is to introduce students to writers most people know by name, but have never actually studied in depth. The goal is to provide a unique and developed perspective for people like W.E.B. Dubios, Martin Luther King, Jr., and James Baldwin. I will also introduce you to more contemporary authors, like Nnedi Okorafor and Percival Everett.

Students should expect to take a quiz over each of the daily reading assignments. The quizzes are designed to test that you are, in fact, keeping up with the reading assignments and coming to class prepared for discussion of the text for the day.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Students will develop an understanding of, and sensitivity to, our shared literary heritage.
- Students will be able to analyze representative texts of significance and to practice critical analysis of work at the center of the humanities.
- Students will demonstrate a critical ability to analyze questions about the nature and value of human life as embodied in the traditions of the humanities.

Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials:
There are several things you will ***absolutely need*** in order to successfully complete this course:

- *A Narrative of the Life and Adventures of Venture: A Native of Africa* (Venture Smith)
- *God's Country* (Percival Everett)
- *Souls of Black Folk* (W.E.B. Dubois)
- *Why We Can't Wait* (Martin Luther King, Jr.)
- *Kindred* (Octavia E. Butler)
- *Binti* (Nnedi Okorafor)
- *A Notes Journal*. *This one from Amazon is the only acceptable kind.*

Descriptions of major assignments, examinations & grading:

There are four assignments that will constitute the grades for this semester:

- Writing Journal (20%)
- Daily Quizzes (15%)
- Midterm Exam (25%)
- Comprehensive Final Exam (40%)

Course Schedule

Week 1 (Aug 23)

Th — Syllabus and introduction to course content
Assigned "Appropriation of Cultures" to read by Tuesday

Week 2 (Aug 28 & 30)

Tu — Discussion of "The Appropriation of Cultures" short story
Th — Video Presentation— "Venture Smith: a Slave's Story"

Week 3 (Sep 4 & 6)

Tu — ***A Narrative of the Life and Adventures of Venture*** — full narrative
Th — ***A Narrative of the Life and Adventures of Venture*** — full narrative

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Week 4 (Sep 11 & 13)

Tu — ***The Souls of Black Folk***— "The Forethought" & "Of Our Spiritual Strivings"
Th — ***The Souls of Black Folk***—"Of the Meaning of Progress"

Week 5 (Sep 18 & 20)

Tu — ***God's Country*** — Chapters 1- 7
Th — ***God's Country*** — Chapters 8-13

Week 6 (Sep 25 & 27)

Tu — ***God's Country*** — Chapters 14- 19
Th — ***God's Country*** — Chapters 20- 26

Week 7 (Oct 2 & 4)

Tu — Prep for Midterm exam
Th — **Midterm Exam**

Week 8 (Oct 9 & 11)

Tu — Library Study Day (Archival Study of Local History)
Th — Library Study Day (Archival Study of Local History)

Week 9 (Oct 16 & 18)

Tu -- ***Why We Can't Wait*** — Chapters 1-2
Th -- ***Why We Can't Wait*** — Chapters 3-4

Week 10 (Oct 23 & 25)

Tu -- ***Why We Can't Wait*** — Chapters 5-6
Th -- ***Why We Can't Wait*** — Chapters 7-8

Week 11 (Oct 30 & Nov 1)

Tu -- ***Why We Can't Wait*** — Afterward
Th -- Video Interview — Octavia E. Butler

Week 12 (Nov 6 & 8)

Tu -- ***Kindred*** — "Prologue", "The River," & "The Fire"
Th -- ***Kindred*** — "The Fall"

Week 13 (Nov 13 & 15)

Tu — ***Kindred*** — "The Fight"
Th — ***Kindred*** — "The Storm"

Week 14 (Nov 20 & 22)

Tu — ***Kindred*** — "The Rope" & "Epilogue"
Th **— THANKSGIVING BREAK**

Week 15 (Nov 27 & 29)

Tu — ***Binti*** — the full novella
Th — ***Binti*** — the full novella

Week 16 (Dec 4 & 6)

Tu -- Prep For Final Exam (Last day of classes)
Th -- **Final Exam (8:00-10:30am)**

Attendance: At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator in student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. ***However***, as the instructor of this section…

Punctual attendance is mandatory, as there is a lot of work to be done in a short amount of time. However, I understand that emergencies happen, **students are allotted two (2) absences before any penalties are assigned.** On your third and fourth (3-4) absences you will lose 5% off your final grade for each absence. The fifth (5) absence will result in a failure for the course. Only official university absences are excused. Students representing UTA in a university-sponsored activity that requires missing class should provide official documentation of schedules and turn in work in advance, unless you have approved alternate arrangements with me. Please note that students who show up to class without their books (analog or electronic) will be counted as absent. Two (2) tardies also count as an absence. Absences due to illness, sleeping in, and long weekends are unexcused - they all count toward the absences limit. Since illness is likely at some point during the semester, you are urged to save the unexcused absence for times when you are too sick to come to class. For any absence, it is the student's responsibility to find out what work they missed and have it completed by the next class period.

Note *You will be counted as absent* on any day that you do not bring your books (Kindles) or Notes Journal to class. Please come to class prepared!

(Back to boilerplate…) However, while UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients "begin attendance in a course." UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Blackboard. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance**. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (http://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/).

Disability Accommodations: UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA),* and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.* All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of **a letter certified** by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:
The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD) www.uta.edu/disability or calling 817-272-3364. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability.

Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS) www.uta.edu/caps/ or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

Non-Discrimination Policy: *The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos.*

Title IX Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington ("University") is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. *For information regarding Title IX, visit* www.uta.edu/titleIX or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or jmhood@uta.edu.

Academic Integrity: Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

> *I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*
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> *I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code in their courses by having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University. Additional information is available at https://www.uta.edu/conduct/.

Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php.

Campus Carry: Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in face-to-face and online classes categorized as "lecture," "seminar," or "laboratory" are directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback via the SFS database is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. Students' anonymity will be protected to the extent that the law allows. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law and aggregate results are posted online. Data from SFS is also used for faculty and program evaluations. For more information, visit http://www.uta.edu/sfs.

Final Review Week: for semester-long courses**,** a period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Emergency Exit Procedures: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

Student Support Services: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php.

The English Writing Center (411LIBR): The Writing Center Offers free tutoring in 20-, 40-, or 60-minute face-to-face and online sessions to all UTA students on any phase of their UTA coursework. Our hours are 9 am to 8 pm Mon.-Thurs., 9 am-3 pm Fri. and Noon-6 pm Sat. and Sun. Register and make appointments online at http://uta.mywconline.com. Classroom Visits, workshops, and specialized services for graduate students are also available. Please see www.uta.edu/owl for detailed information on all our programs and services.

The Library's 2nd floor Academic Plaza offers students a central hub of support services, including IDEAS Center, University Advising Services, Transfer UTA and various college/school advising hours. Services are available during the library's hours of operation. http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza

Emergency Phone Numbers: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone), **2-3003** (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381