African American Literature I Syllabus Template

MASSASOIT COMMUNITY COLLEGE
African American Literature I
ENGL 215-
SEMESTER/YEAR
DAYS/TIMES
LOCATION
Professor:
Phone:
Office:
Email Address:
Office Hours:

ENGL215 – 3 Credits

Course Description: Examines the works of African-American writers and performers from the periods of colonization and slavery through the Harlem Renaissance. Works will be studied in political, historical, and cultural contexts with particular focus on contributions and challenges to Euro-American culture and to simultaneous developments internationally among peoples of African descent. Since the course is based on time periods and major authors, African-American Literature II does not have to be taken after African-American Literature I.

Prerequisite: ENGL 102 English Composition II.

TEXTS and MATERIALS:
[List all materials students need to have for the course. For any texts students need to purchase, include the name of the publisher and the edition you will use.]

Student Learning Outcomes:

[List course outcomes.]

- Read a significant survey of the texts that make-up what is considered to be the "canon" of African-American Literature. (Note: composed prior to The Harlem Renaissance.)
- Comprehend the way major works reflect the origins of African-American/Black culture and "Pan Africanism" at various points in history
- Trace the roots of African-American Literature through a variety of genres, including, but not limited to: sermons, gospels, folktales, ballads, work songs, the oral and vernacular traditions, slave narratives, travelogues, speeches, non-fiction essays, short stories, novellas, novels, and poetry.
- Recognize in literary and historical texts themes that continue to challenge African-American philosophies (e.g. slavery vs. freedom, class, social position, disparity, gender and race consciousness, racism, discrimination, violence, religious values, family, identity formation, etc.).
- Continue the method of purposeful analysis and evaluation of language and writing that was established in English Composition I and English Composition II.
- Use the critical thinking and research skills that were developed in English Composition I and English Composition II to compose thoughtful and articulate papers in which the writer utilizes primary, secondary, and tertiary sources to support original claims and arguments

- Make efforts to understand and appreciate the human condition through the consideration of our literary counterparts.
- Strengthen Core Competencies in order to increase success in this and other courses and in the workplace.

ATTENDANCE:
[Describe your attendance policy. You may also want to inform students about participation reporting to the Registrar. Here is language you can use: I am required to report your participation to the Registrar's office during the semester. If you stop attending class, the Registrar may drop you from the course.*]*

ESSAYS AND ASSIGNMENTS:
[Briefly describe the types of assignments you will give.]
Here you might also include information about the Academic Resource Center.

GRADING:
[Explain how you will determine students' grades in the course. Here you might also include your policy on late papers, revision, etc.

If you plan to assign numerical grades, you should include Massasoit's grading scale: A 93-100, A- 90-92, B+ 88-89, B 83-87, B- 80-82, C+ 78-79, C 73-77, C- 70-72, D+ 68-69, D 63-67, D- 60-62, F 59 and below.

You should also give students some idea of the quality of work expected in the course. For example, you might describe your criteria for A work, B work, etc., or you might attach a rubric you will use to grade student work. You may also wish to encourage students to keep work that is graded and returned to them. Here is language you can use: It is your responsibility to hold all papers, quizzes, etc. until final grade is received.*]*

STANDARDS FOR WRITING: *[Here you will describe your expectations concerning student writing. Here is language you can use:* Essays written outside of class should be double-spaced, typed, with one-inch margins on all sides. The use of word processing will facilitate the process of revision. For in-class assignments, please write legibly with blue or black ink in a blue book or on white theme paper. Write on one side of the paper only.]

PLAGIARISM:
[Include a statement about plagiarism and how it will be treated in the class. Here is language you can use:

Plagiarism means using another person's words or ideas without giving that person credit. It is a form of cheating and theft and will be treated seriously. All work you hand in for this course needs to be completely your own. Plagiarism will result in an F for the assignment and may result in an F for the course.]

CLASS METHODOLOGY:
[Briefly describe how you will teach the course (e.g., through class discussions, group projects, etc.). You may also want to briefly describe how your class will operate, any policies about classroom behavior, class participation, etc.]

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

[Include a weekly schedule of topic, readings, major assignments, and tests or exams. Be sure to include any holidays or dates when class will not meet. (You can find this information on the Academic Calendar.) You may also want to include a statement that this schedule is subject to change. Here is some additional language you may want to use:

Reading and writing assignments may be added to and changed. Please check hall monitors for class cancellations. If you would like to have news about school cancellations sent directly to your computer or phone, join the Massasoit Campus Alert system here: http://www.massasoit.mass.edu/admin_depts/emerg_alert.cfm.*]*

Table 1: A list of topics, assignments, and due dates

Dates, Holidays & Deadlines	Topics, Readings & Course Work
Week 1:	Topics: Readings: Due:
Week 2:	Topics: Readings: Due:
Week 3:	Topics: Readings: Due:
Week 4:	Topics: Readings: Due:
Week 5:	Topics: Readings: Due:
Week 6:	Topics: Readings: Due:
Week 7:	Topics: Readings: Due:
Week 8:	Topics: Readings: Due:
Week 9:	Topics: Readings: Due:

Week 10:	Topics: Readings: Due:
Week 11:	Topics: Readings: Due:
Week 12:	Topics: Readings: Due:
Week 13:	Topics: Readings: Due:
Week 14:	Topics: Readings: Due:
Week 15:	Topics: Readings: Due: