

English 5307
African-American Literature

Location: Online

Meeting Times: Online, Wednesday 6:30 – 8:45 pm

Professor: Dr. Ian Peddie
MAB 111

Email: ian.peddie@sulross.edu

Phone: 432-837-8154

Required Texts

Brooks, Gwendolyn. Selected Poems (0060882964)

Brown, Claude. Manchild in the Promised Land (145163157X)

Hughes, Langston and Arnold Rampersad. The Collected Poems of Langston Hughes (0679764089)

Larsen, Nella. Passing (9780142437278)

Morrison, Toni. The Bluest Eye (0307278441)

Petry, Ann. The Street (9780395901496)

Wacquart, Loic. Punishing the Poor (082234422X)

There will also be online texts. These are free and I will supply URL information.

Course Description

In this course, we will explore the relationship between African-American literature and culture and the world we live in. In this sense, the class will address currently topical concerns such as injustice, exclusion, elitism, prejudice etc., especially how these concerns are portrayed, elucidated, disguised, championed and traduced through a variety of cultural lenses that include literature, history, film, music and social analysis. Our focus in this endeavour will be African-American literature and culture. Needless to say, this course offers much scope for interdisciplinary enquiry.

Course Objectives: Students in English 5307 will:

- examine the processes of poetry, drama, fiction and other writing through the academic lens;
- analyze creative methodologies;
- understand the interaction between African-American culture and society
- appreciate and comprehend interdisciplinary analysis and approaches
- understand and be able to analyze culture as part of a socio-political spectrum

ADA (Americans With Disabilities Act)

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the Student's responsibility to initiate a request. Please contact Ms. Rebecca Greathouse Wren, M.Ed., LPC-S, Director/Counselor, Accessibility Services Coordinator, Ferguson Hall (Suite 112) at 432.837.8203; mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Students should then contact the instructor as soon as possible to initiate the recommended accommodations.

Course Journal: The course journal will consist of your thoughts, responses, questions, and ideas pursuant to the texts of elements generated by the texts. Your journal/weekly responses should be about half to three quarters of a page, single spaced. Your responses could run from something that catches your eye to a problem or a concern, to a textual, social, political adumbration etc. Remember that you are not expected to have all of the answers but if you have then let us have them! Note that these responses are **not** summaries or descriptions. Be frugal with the use of “I” and be wary of “I think” and its variations too. **Do no research;** I am interested in what you have got to say rather than the opinions of another. Needless to say, correct syntax, grammar and so on is expected.

Assignments

Annotated Bibliography	20%
Course Journal	20%
Research Paper	30%
Presentations	20%
Final Exam	10%

Academic Integrity

Sul Ross students are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity and are expected to encourage others to do the same. Further, students are expected to take responsible action when there is reason to suspect dishonesty on the part of others. While it is not possible to list all acts of academic dishonesty, examples include knowingly performing, attempting to perform, or assisting another in performing any act of academic dishonesty; cheating; plagiarism; collusion; submitting previously submitted material; misrepresentation or falsification of material; misrepresentation of circumstances such as illness, conflicting responsibilities. Additional details on academic integrity are found in the college catalogue. Academic dishonesty carries severe penalties ranging from a grade of “0” on the affected assignment to dismissal from Sul Ross State University.

Calendar

- 1/13 Overture: Introductions, expectations
- 1/20 Larsen: *Passing*; Wacqaunt: Prologue xi-xxiii
- 1/27 Introduction to literary Research; Wacqaunt: chapter one
- 2/3 The Harlem Renaissance; Wacqaunt: chapter two
- 2/10 Hughes *Poems*; Wacqaunt: chapter six
- 2/17 Brooks: *Poems*; Wacqaunt: chapter three
- 2/24 Petry: *The Street*
- 3/3 Petry: *The Street*
- 3/10 Morrison: *The Bluest Eye*
- 3/17 Morrison: *The Bluest Eye*

3/24 Music and protest; Wacqaunt: chapter five

3/31 Brown: *Manchild in the Promised Land*; Wacqaunt: chapter four

4/7 Brown: *Manchild in the Promised Land*

4/14 Final Paper; Discussions, Ideas

4/21 Presentations

4/28 Last Day of Class; Review