

**Common Course Outline**  
**ENG 208**  
**African American Literature**  
**3 Hours**

**The Community College of Baltimore County**

**Description**

**African American Literature**

Explores the portion of American literature written by African Americans, beginning with slavery and coming up to the 21st century.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English with a “C” or better

**Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Assess the ways in which the selected literature reflects and also contributes to its particular historical moment and cultural context
2. Write a well informed literary analysis using appropriate terminology and textual support.
3. Access and apply relevant literary criticism found both in traditional sources and through the internet.
4. Work collaboratively on questions and problems related to the texts, and on developing and refining their written work.
5. Engage in critical/collaborative discussion about a text's relevance to life today, and whether and how contemporary readers can benefit from it.
6. Analyze the ways in which issues of race, gender, and class shape African American literature.
7. Recognize the importance of the oral tradition in African American literature.

8. Identify authors in various historical categories: slave narratives, Reconstruction literature, the Harlem Renaissance, Modern Writers, and literature since 1970.
9. Discuss the connections between African American literature and political empowerment.
10. Place African American literature in context within the American literature canon.
11. Explain the effects of slavery on early African American writings.
12. Compare the literature of Accommodation vs. Political Empowerment.
13. Analyze a work by one major modern African American author.
14. Recommend writers in various historical categories based on style and personal preference.
15. Discuss the dynamics of Harlem Renaissance literature.
16. Assess the impact of African American literature since 1970.

### **Major Topics**

- I. Oral traditions
  - a. Spirituals
  - b. Gospel
  - c. Sermons
  - d. Speeches
- II. Slave Narratives
- III. Accommodation vs. Political Empowerment
- IV. Reconstruction Literature
- V. Harlem Renaissance
- VI. Modern Authors
- VII. Literature Since 1970

### **Course Requirements**

All students will:

1. Participate actively in class discussions.
2. Write at least four essays.
3. Conduct a research project as part of a collaborative learning activity.

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member.