



Tlemcen University

Faculty of Arts and Languages

Department of Foreign Languages

Section of English

Lesson Plan: African American Literature

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Academic Year: 2020/2021

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1. Information about the Course

University institution: University of Abou Bekr Belkaid – Tlemcen -

Faculty: Faculty of Letters and Foreign Languages

Target audience: Third Year Students – English Department

Module: Study of Literary Texts

Course Title: African American Literature

Coefficient: 03

Duration: 12 hours

Schedule: Tuesday at 8h30 - 10h

Room: 27

Teacher of TD: Dr. Imene SEBIANE CHIKH

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2. Presentation of the Course

This course offers an introduction to African American literature during the early period of 20th century mainly during the Harlem Renaissance. This period was known by modernism, an artistic movement which emerged by the coming of new ideas and discoveries. Besides, this course tries to focus on the concept of Orality or oral tradition which is all what have been orally transmitted from one generation to another including songs, legends, stories, etc. In this respect, this course attempts to depict how the cultural and linguistic aspects of Orality are contributed within the field of African American literature and to demonstrate the main purposes that these African American authors want to convey throughout these oral traditions.

3. Content

This course is divided into two chapters: the first one deals with an overview of the African American literature where we will state an introduction to modernism, African American Modernist literature, the Harlem Renaissance and Zora Neale Hurston a Modernist feminist and folklorist novelist; the second chapter is devoted to the analysis of Orality and Ebonics within Hurston's novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

4. Pre-requisites

To be able to get the most out of this course you need to know:

The American Modernism

The history of the African Americans

The various aspects of the Black Oral Culture

5. Place of the Course in the Program

This course belongs to the first section of the program.

6. Learning Objectives

This course aims to demonstrate the way the concept of Orality is integrated within the field of African American Modernist literature. To be precise, this course follows four major objectives:

1. To provide an introduction to modernism, to the study of the African American literature and its relation to Ebonics and oral Black culture.
2. To combine Ebonics as a dialect with the Standard English within the African American literature.
3. To exhibit the importance of oral culture in the Afro American Modernist literary writings.
4. To depict how the African American literature contributes to the persistence and the prominence of the Black oral heritage

7. The Method of Work

This course is organized in:

- Theoretical sessions (Conferences) which allow students to master the basic concepts of literature.
- Tutorial sessions (TD) which help students to mobilize knowledge in the realization of proposed exercises and questions. (For instance when students are asked to analyze a literary text or a poem)

8. Teaching and Learning Materials

In order to present the lecture, the teacher relies on:

- The use of didactic materials to teach in classroom like the blackboard, novels and tutorials.
- The use of the modern techniques to teach: computer and data show
- Space management: divide the students into groups of three or four students in order to perform plays.

9. Recommended References

Books

Gates, Henry Louis Jr., and Nellie Y. McKay, eds. *The Norton Anthology of African American Literature*. 2nd ed. W.W. Norton & Company, 2004

Harris, Joyce Braden. *African and African-American Traditions in Language Arts*. Portland Public Schools, 1986.

Hemenway, Robert. *Zora Neale Hurston and the Eatonville Anthropology in the Harlem Renaissance Remembered*. Edited by Langston Hughes and Arna Bontemps, Dodd Mead & Company, 1972

Hurston, Zora Neale. *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. (1937). Harper Perennial Library, 1999

MortadSerir, Ilhem. "A View of Dialect and Folklore in Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*." *Global Journal of Human Social Science*, vol. 14, no. 4, 2014

Werlock, Abby H. P. "Modernism." *The Facts On File Companion to the American Short Story*, Second Edition. New York: Facts On File, Inc., 2009.

Web Page

Rickford, John Russell. "What is Ebonics? (African American Vernacular English)." *Linguistic Society of America*, 2003, www.lsadc.org/