

**Carleton University
Fall 2013
Department of English**

**English 4708A: African-American Studies
Mondays, 11:35 – 14:25
Location: B249 Loeb (Please confirm location on Carleton Central)**

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Priscilla L. Walton
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OUTLINE:

Topic: African-American Studies

This course will focus on Black and African-American Studies. Tracing the histories, movements, and cultures of the African Diaspora, classes will examine racial constructions and constructedness.

Texts:

Stewart, Anthony, *You Must be a Basketball Player*
Jacobs, Harriet, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*
Hurston, Zora Neale, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
Ellison, Ralph, *Invisible Man*
Baldwin, James, *If Beale Street Could Talk*
X, Malcolm, *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*
Morrison, Toni, *Beloved*
Walker, Alice, *The Color Purple*
Everett, Percival, *Erasure*
Obama, Barack, *Dreams from my Father*

Note: These texts will be available at Octopus Books, 116 Third Avenue (Bank and Third); (613) 233-2589

REQUIREMENTS:

One Essay (4000-4500 words) -	50%
Seminars -	25%
Participation (including newsgroup participation) -	<u>25%</u>
	100%

ENGLISH 4708A: African-American Studies

PROPOSED SYLLABUS

September 9	Introduction
September 16	Stewart, <i>You Must be a Basketball Player</i>
September 23	Jacobs, <i>Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl</i>
September 30	Hurston, <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i>
October 7	Ellison, <i>Invisible Man</i>
October 14	Thanksgiving
October 21	Baldwin, <i>If Beale Street Could Talk</i>
October 28	Fall Break
November 4	X, <i>The Autobiography of Malcolm X</i>
November 11	Morrison, <i>Beloved</i> (ESSAYS DUE IN CLASS)
November 18	Walker, <i>The Color Purple</i>
November 25	Everett, <i>Erasure</i>
December 2	Obama, <i>Dreams of my Father</i>
December 9	Review

ASSIGNMENTS

SEMINARS:

Class presentations will focus on an aspect of the text under study that week. Presentations will address questions raised by the narrative, explore problems in relation to it, and/or assess its social and cultural movements.

ESSAY TOPIC

Due Date: November 11, 2013

Length: 3000-3500 words (12-15 pp.)

Students will submit a critical assessment of one of the questions (or figures) that has arisen from the course material. Essays will comprise well-researched and scholarly analyses of the issue under study.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated for this course. For an explanation, see the statement on Instructional Offences in the Undergraduate Calendar.

For Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations are required to contact a co-ordinator at the Paul Menton Centre to complete the necessary *letters of accommodation*. The student must then make an appointment to discuss their needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first class or CUTV test. This is to ensure sufficient time is available to make the necessary accommodation arrangements.

For Religious Observance:

Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious observance should make a formal, written request to their instructors for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student.

Students or instructors who have questions or want to confirm accommodation eligibility of a religious event or practice may refer to the Equity Services website for a list of holy days and Carleton's Academic Accommodation policies, or may contact an Equity Services Advisor in the Equity Services Department for assistance.

For Pregnancy:

Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.