

**Carleton University  
Fall 2014  
Department of English**

**ENGL 4708A: Studies in American Lit I**

**Wednesdays, 11:35 – 14:25**

***Please confirm location on Carleton Central***

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Priscilla L. Walton  
Office: DT 1807  
Telephone: 520-2600, ext. 2322  
Percy\_walton@carleton.ca

**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*

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

**REQUIREMENTS:**

One Essay (3000-3500 words) -	50%
Seminars -	25%
Participation -	<u>25%</u>
	100%

## ENGLISH 4708-A: African-American Studies

### PROPOSED SYLLABUS

September 10	Introduction
September 17	No Class
September 24	Stewart, <i>You Must be a Basketball Player</i>
October 1	Jacobs , <i>Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl</i>
October 8	Hurston, <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i>
October 15	Ellison, <i>Invisible Man</i>
October 22	Guest Speaker
October 29	Fall Break
November 5	Baldwin, <i>If Beale Street Could Talk</i>
November 12	X, <i>The Autobiography of Malcolm X</i> <b>(ESSAYS DUE IN CLASS)</b>
November 19	Morrison, <i>Beloved</i>
November 26	Everett, <i>Erasure</i>
December 3	Walker, <i>The Color Purple</i>

**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 12, 2014**

**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, after that issue has been approved by the instructor.

**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 coordinator 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. Please note the following deadlines for submitting completed forms to the PMC for formally scheduled exam accommodations: November 5, 2004 for fall and fall/winter term courses and March 11, 2005 for winter term courses.

**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.