

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ENG 246 BC: AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE— SPRING 2019

DR. HAROLD WILLIAM HALBERT

TTh 9:35 AM to 11:00 AM, South Hall 208



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Office Hours CENTRAL CAMPUS: Parkhouse Hall 441 Central Office Hours: MWF 8:30 AM to 9:00 AM WEST CAMPUS: South Hall 228, Cubicle G West Office Hours: TTh 11:00 AM to 11:45 AM Additional appointments can be schedule individually via email request.	Writing Center Hours: CENTRAL CAMPUS: MW: 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Readings in all genres of African-American literature, and these readings will cover historical periods that include the pre-enslavement of Africans, slavery, Reconstruction, the Harlem Renaissance, the Civil Rights and the Black Aesthetics Movements, and contemporary texts. This course meets General Education Core Goal 6: Intellectual Heritage; Core Goal 7: Aesthetic Sensibility and the Arts; and Core Goal 12: Sensitivity to Global Perspectives and Cultural and Social Diversity.

PREREQUISITES:

Students must have successfully completed or tested out of ENG 102 with a grade of "C" or better.

COURSE GOALS:

- Acquire insight and a broad perspective of the human experience over time (Core Goal 6.1).
- Present chronologically the movements and major writers of African American and African Diasporic literature from 1400 to the present (Core Goal 6.2).
- Use secondary sources to analyze literary texts from diverse cultural and social perspectives (Core Goal 6.3, 12.2).
- Develop an ability to make informed aesthetic judgments (Core Goal 7.1).
- Demonstrate an understanding of artistic expression through analysis and/or creation. (Core Goal 7.2)
- Explain the complexity of human diversity and the dynamics (individual, social, economic and global) that shape African American and African Diasporic literature (Core Goal 12.1).

COURSE CONTENT

My courses are designed to deal with adult issues often centering on controversial cultural and historical conflicts. At times, the class readings, lectures, and discussions may question ideas or beliefs that individual students hold dear. In addition, the language used in the course may range from highly technical jargon to the vernacular, including profanity. Students who wish to avoid such a classroom environment should seek another section of the course.

TEXTBOOK AND REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- *The Norton Anthology of African American Literature*, Third edition, vols. 1 and 2
- Some individual stories and essays in the Course Documents section of the class web page
- Post-It Brand book marking tabs
- Access to the MLA Style Guide with the 2009 Update
- Pen and paper for each class

English 246 will be one of the most challenging courses of your academic career because it moves quickly, requires a wide range of academic skills, and demands more time than the average course. In addition to an intensive reading load (with reading checks to document your marginalia), each student will write two major papers (a literary interpretation and a research paper), prepare two exam guides, take a mid-term and final exam, develop an annotated bibliography, and use the discussion board extensively to post drafts and comments on readings. A breakdown of the assignments and relative point values is as follows:

Final drafts of papers	200 points
Exams	100 points
Annotated bibliographies	40 points
Two-minute presentations	10 points
Quotation assignments	20 points
Individual drafts of papers	0-20 points, depending on completeness
Required emails and posts	-5 points if not completed
Reading checks	5 points

Your grade is calculated by adding the total points earned and then dividing them by the total points possible. That average will then be plugged into the college's grading scale.

Transcript/Entry Numerical Grade	Corresponding letter grade	Percent Equivalent
4.0	A	93.6-100%
3.7	A-	89.5-93.5%
3.3	B+	87.5-89.4%
3.0	B	83.5-87.5%
2.7	B-	79.5-83.5%
2.3	C+	77.5-79.5%
2.0	C	69.5-77.4%
1.3	D	63.5-69.5%
0.0	F	0-63.5%

Be advised that *you must complete all major papers and in-class essays in order to pass the course*. Even if your paper is too late to be accepted under the late work policies, it must be completed by the end of the semester. If it is not, then you will automatically fail for the course, regardless of what your point total is.

MAJOR PAPER REWRITE OPTION

In order to allow students to benefit from the three-step writing process and to turn in the best possible work for evaluation, students will be permitted to revise the first graded major paper in the course for an entirely new grade provided the assignment/essay was handed in on time and without plagiarism. Late or plagiarized papers are ineligible for revision.

Note: Just turning in a revision does not guarantee you will receive a higher grade. In the event that the revised draft grade is actually lower than the original assignment, you will receive the higher of the two grades; however, a higher revision grade always replaces the original grade, so if you are prepared to work hard, your grade will most likely benefit. See the class web page for more information on the major paper rewrite. Please see the class web page's assignments section for more explicit details.

COLLEGE POLICIES:

All College policies must be followed and are a binding part of this syllabus. Details on the Student Code of Conduct can be found at <http://www.mc3.edu/policy/sa/conduct.htm>.

PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Plagiarism constitutes a serious breach of academic honesty and will not be tolerated. Unless I deem an act of plagiarism or cheating an honest mistake, I routinely assign students an "F" in the course for any act of academic dishonesty without the option of withdrawing from the course. Especially egregious acts will receive an "FX" with an additional notation of academic misconduct on the student's transcript. Please note that submitting work from another class as original work for this course constitutes academic dishonesty. For a full discussion of the Academic Honesty policies, please see <http://www.mc3.edu/policy/aa/ethics.htm>.

GRADE APPEAL

In the interest of due process, the College provides an appeal process for a student who believes that a recorded final grade does not accurately reflect his/her academic performance in a course due to issuance of an arbitrary grade, inconsistent grading practice, or mechanical error. The policy and procedure is found at <http://www.mc3.edu/about-us/policies/8581>

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The purpose of the Student Code of Conduct is to guide students to understand their responsibilities in regard to appropriate behavior and respect for others in the college community. The policy addresses classroom disruptions and removal from the classroom for behavioral issues. It also provides the standards for ensuring the College provides due process to students through the judicial process. The policy and procedure is found at <http://www.mc3.edu/about-us/policies/125>

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Montgomery County Community College (MCCC) welcomes qualified students with disabilities and endorses the principles of nondiscrimination and reasonable accommodation as described in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (504) and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). To see if you are eligible for services and reasonable accommodations in this course please review the policy on the Disabilities web site at <http://www.mc3.edu/policy/sa/disable.htm>.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Regular attendance and punctuality are expected. Students may miss four class meetings and remain in the course. The fifth absence will result in either a required withdrawal from the course (before the **March 28, 2019**, deadline) or an automatic F in the course (after the **March 28, 2019**, deadline for withdrawal without a signature). At the start of the semester, each student will receive 12 points of extra credit for attendance. Points lost for tardiness or absences will initially be taken from this pool of points, giving students the flexibility to miss two classes without injury to their grades. Each absence will subtract five points from a student's total points scored for the semester. Each late arrival will subtract two points from the total points scored. A point will be awarded for each class attended. If a student knows he or she will miss a class, that student should alert Dr. Halbert beforehand. Under special circumstances (usually involving a documented medical emergency or a death in the family), you may request permission to remain enrolled in the course if your absences have exceeded four, but such circumstances are rare. Attendance will be taken by sign-in sheet at the start of class: students arriving after the sign-in sheet will be marked tardy. If you arrive late, please wait until the end of class to sign the sheet. Failure to sign the sheet at all constitutes an absence. Students who leave class early must ask for permission prior to the start of class; if you leave without permission before I dismisses the class, you will be marked absent for the whole period. Good manners suggest that if you know you will miss a class meeting, you will contact me and let me know.

CLASS CANCELLATION:

In the event of inclement weather or other emergency, the MCCC School Closing Code is 320 for day classes and 2320 for evening classes. Announcements will be made on KYW (1060 AM) and other local stations. In the event that I have to cancel a class, I will email the class and post a message on Blackboard (assuming I have power at home to access the Internet). I strongly urge each of you to set up [Montco's text messaging alert](#) on your mobile phones as well: the College will send an alert of campus-wide closings.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY, INCOMPLETES, AND AUDITS:

Students are encouraged to consult with their instructor and/or an academic advisor when initiating a Course Withdrawal. The instructor's permission must be requested and received if requesting a withdrawal after 60% and before 75% of the course is completed. After 75% of the course is completed, students may apply for an Excused Withdrawal due to medical, catastrophic, or other circumstances beyond the student's control. Specific dates of deadlines for this semester can be found at <http://www.mc3.edu/adm-fin-aid/deadlines>

Should you wish to withdraw from the course, the deadline to withdraw without my signature is March 28, 2019. If you do not formally withdraw, you will receive an F for the course even if you stop attending. ***After March 28, 2019, I will not sign any withdrawal requests unless you have a documented emergency. If I have not returned the first paper by this date, I will extend the deadline until one week after that paper is returned.***

The absolute last day to get my signature is April 13, 2019. After that, all requests to withdrawal must be made directly to the Dean of Arts and Humanities.

Applications for an "Incomplete" will only be entertained in cases of documented medical emergencies, incarceration, or military call-ups. Audits will not be permitted unless you start the course as an audit student and can convince me that you are willing to do all that work for no grade.

TURNING IN DRAFTS

For each major paper, we will write at least two drafts. Each draft needs to be uploaded to the Discussion Board in Blackboard with the paper both copied and pasted AND attached as a file. One purpose of this upload is to create a backup file of your paper should your computer/storage device crash. The other is so that you can read the works of others to see other approaches to the same

writing task you are facing. While stealing the words or ideas of others in the class will result in a plagiarism charge, stealing someone's style or rhetorical moves isn't: most strong writers at some point have looked at the works of others as guides on how to write.

TURNING IN MAJOR PAPERS

When the final draft of a major paper is due, you will need to do the following:

- Submit the paper to the appropriate dropbox on Blackboard as either an MS Word, Pages, or Rich Text Format file. When required, a works cited page should be included in the same file. ***This file is what will actually be graded, so make sure it matches the same final version that you submitted in hardcopy.***
- Post a copy to the discussion board in the "Final Draft" forum..

LATE WORK

All work is due at the beginning of class on the day listed for the syllabus unless otherwise noted. I hate late work from students: it complicates my ability to grade or simply keep track of your work. More importantly, it devalues the efforts of your classmates who work very hard to meet their deadlines. To discourage late work, I have the following policy:

- Final drafts of papers lose 25 points (out of the possible 200 points) for each 24-hour period they are late. This penalty includes Saturdays and Sundays.
- Other late assignments have a 24-hour period to be submitted. They will be graded, and that grade will be divided by 2 and entered into the grade spreadsheet.

Late work will kill your grade, so don't do it. If you know ahead of time that you will not be able to complete a task, contact me for an extension. I reserve the right to make an exception to the late policy in the case of an extreme (and documentable) emergency, but that almost never happens.

TUTORIAL SERVICES:

Tutorial Services: Free subject-area tutoring, academic workshops, and study skills specialists are available at Blue Bell Campus's Tutorial Services in College Hall 180, across from the Cafeteria. Tutorial Services helps students develop learning strategies based on their unique learning styles with the goal of creating successful students and independent learners. Contact them at 215-641-6452 or log into the portal and find us online at <https://mymccc.mc3.edu/allcampusresources/academicaffairs/lal/Pages/default.aspx>. Please note that Tutorial Services houses the Writing Center where faculty-tutors are more than happy to assist with revising papers.

EMAIL:

Each student is responsible for checking his or her email accounts at least every other day during the semester. During the last week of class, reading day, and the entire final exam period (until Dr. Halbert announces that final grades have been posted), students should check their email every day in order to make sure there are no issues or concerns about your grade that need to be addressed. Failure to check your email may negatively affect your grade because messages about the class generally are generally important information about assignments.

CLASSROOM POLICIES:

As adults, students and the instructor should know to do the following in class:

- Be prepared for class with work completed and required materials available.
- Refrain from non-class related conversations once class has started.
- Keep cell phones and pagers in "silent" mode and refrain from answering them or using them to send text messages. Should a student expect an important call (because of family emergencies or issues of similar magnitude), please make the instructor aware of that possibility before class.
- Inform the professor if you will be recording the class.
- Treat each other with mutual respect: while we can challenge each other's ideas in class, personalized attacks or use of inappropriate language directed at another member of the class community is unacceptable.
- Ask for help if you need it.
- Make the most of this course. It will help in the future.

FINAL WORD:

I enjoy teaching literature courses: I believe they can be the most empowering classes a person can take in college because the skills you learn can help you in virtually every part of your life. I took this job to help people discover their potential: as long as you are willing to do the work, I will do everything in my power to help you not only pass the course, but to be the best writer you can be.

DAILY ASSIGNMENTS

Thursday, January 17, 2019

- First Day of Class

Tuesday, January 22, 2019

- Download the template for student contact information from the Handouts section of the class website, complete it, change the file name, and email it to Dr. Halbert at hhalbert@mc3.edu. The subject line of the email should follow this convention: *Your first and last name's* Contact information.
- Sign, date, and return the Course Contract (available in the Handouts section).
- Read and mark the following from the Norton:
 - "Introduction: Talking Books" (xxv-xivii)
 - "The Vernacular Tradition, Part 1" (Only read 3-6, stop at "Defining the Vernacular")
 - "City Called Heaven" (12-13)
 - "Go Down, Moses" (14-15)
 - "Been in the Storm So Long" (15-16)
 - "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" (16)
 - "Steal Away to Jesus" (16-17)
 - "Promises of Freedom" (22)
 - "Run, Nigger, Run" (24)
 - "John Henry" (25-28)

Thursday, January 24, 2019

- Read and mark the following from the Norton:
 - "The Signifying Monkey" (30-33)
 - "Folktales" (54-56)
 - "All God's Children Had Wings" (57-58)
 - "How to Write a Letter" (60)
 - "De Reason Niggers Is Working So Hard" (64)
 - "Brer Rabbit Tricks Brer Fox Again" (67-68)
 - "The Wonderful Tar-Baby Story" (68-69)
 - "How Mr. Rabbit Was Too Sharp for Mr. Fox" (69-70)
 - "What the Rabbit Learned" (72-73)

Tuesday, January 29, 2019

- Read and mark "The Literature of Slavery and Freedom" in the Norton (75-87)
- Read and mark the entire Phillis Wheatley section (Norton 137-150)

Thursday, January 31, 2019

- Read and mark the entire Olaudah Equiano section (Norton 112-137)

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

- Last day to drop the course
- Read and mark the entire Sojourner Truth section (Norton 176-180)
- Read and mark the entire Solomon Northup section (Norton 186-198)

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

- NO CLASS: We do not meet on Wednesdays
- [Withdraw](#) period without signature starts

Thursday, February 7, 2019

- Read and mark in the Norton pages 221-246 of the Harriet Jacobs section.

Tuesday, February 12, 2019

- Finish reading and marking the Harriet Jacobs section (Norton 246-261)
- Read and mark the biography and the following selections from Frances E. W. Harper in the Norton:
 - "Eliza Harris" (449)
 - "The Slave Mother" (450)
 - "Aunt Chloe's Politics" (454)
 - "Learning to Read" (455)
 - "A Double Standard" (456)
 - "An Appeal to my Country Women" (458)
 - "Woman's Political Future" (470)

Thursday, February 14, 2019

- Read and mark Chapters I-IX of *Narrative of the life of Frederick Douglass* (Norton 330-362)
- We will begin to watch *12 Years a Slave* in class.

Tuesday, February 19, 2019

- Finish reading and marking *Narrative of the life of Frederick Douglass* (Norton 362-393)
- Quotation Assignment #1 due. Please download and type directly into the template for the quotation assignment (see the Assignments section of the class web page). Submit completed assignment to the "Quotation Assignment #1" section of the Dropboxes section of the class web page in Blackboard.
- We will continue to watch *12 Years a Slave* in class.

Thursday, February 21, 2019

- Read and mark the entire Booker T. Washington section (Norton 548-580)

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

- Midterm Exam. See Assignments sections for essay questions, quotation list, and instructions for making an exam card.

Thursday, February 28, 2019

- Read and mark in the Norton the entire Paul Laurence Dunbar section (894-916)

Tuesday, March 5, 2019

- Draft of Paper #1 Due. Post a copy to the discussion board in the "Paper #1 Draft" forum as both a copy and paste AND an attachment. Print a copy and bring it to class.
- The draft will be graded out of 20 points: 20 points means a complete paper that meets the required length and has a works cited page. Papers with less than that will be prorated. It is better to come with some of a draft than skipping.

Thursday, March 7, 2019

- Read and mark the following from the W.E.B. Du Bois section in the Norton:
 - Biography (679-683)
 - Pages 687 to 709 from *The Souls of Black Folk* (The Forethought through the end of chapter IV)

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

- Finish reading and marking pages *The Souls of Black Folk* (Chapter V through the end of The After-Thought)

Thursday, March 14, 2019

- No class: Paper #1 Due. Post to both the discussion board and the dropbox. See the paper checklist in the handouts section for details.

Tuesday, March 19, 2019

- NO CLASS: Spring Break

Thursday, March 21, 2019

- NO CLASS: Spring Break

Tuesday, March 26, 2019

- Read and mark "Harlem Renaissance 1919-1940" in the Norton (929-944)

- Read and mark the entire Arthur A. Schomburg section in the Norton (944-949)
- Read and mark the entire Hubert Harrison section in the Norton (956-962)

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

- NO CLASS: We do not meet on Wednesdays
- Last day to [withdraw](#) without professor's signature. Please email professor if you plan to withdraw.

Thursday, March 28, 2019

- Read and mark the entire Marcus Garvey section in the Norton (984-992)
- [Withdrawals](#) from the course now require professor's signature

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

- Read and mark the following in the Norton:
 - Zora Neale Hurston (Biography) (1029-1032)
 - Hurston's "Sweat" (1032-1040)

Thursday, April 4, 2019

- NO CLASS: I will be at an academic conference
- **Read and mark the entire Langston Hughes section** (1302-1339)
- This reading counts double.

Tuesday, April 9, 2019

- NO CLASS: I will be at an academic conference
- **Read and mark the bio and selections from Gwendolyn Brooks** (Vol. 2 324-390)
- This reading counts double.

Thursday, April 11, 2019

- Read and mark the following selections from James Baldwin
 - Bio (Vol. 2 390-394)
 - "Everybody's Protest Novel" (Vol. 2 394-400)
 - "Sonny's Blues" (Vol. 2 413-435)
 - "Princes and Powers" (Vol 2 435-453)

Saturday, April 13, 2019

- NO CLASS: we do not meet on Saturdays
- Last day to [withdraw](#) with professor's signature

Sunday, April 14, 2019

- NO CLASS: we do not meet on Sundays
- All [withdraws](#) from this date on require approval from the Office of Academic Affairs

Tuesday, April 16, 2019

- Read and mark the bio and selections from Malcolm X (Vol. 2 565-588)
- Read and mark the bio For Martin Luther King, Jr. and "Letter from Birmingham Jail" (Vol. 2 592-607)

Thursday, April 18, 2019

- Read Octavia Butler's bio and "Bloodchild" (Vol 2 1251-1266)

Tuesday, April 23, 2019

- Paper #2 Draft due. Post a copy to the discussion board in the "Paper #2 Draft" forum as both a copy and paste AND an attachment. Print a copy and bring it to class.
- The draft will be graded out of 20 points: 20 points means a complete paper that meets the required length and has a works cited page. Papers with less than that will be prorated. It is better to come with some of a draft than skipping.

Thursday, April 25, 2019

- Read and mark Toni Morrison's "Recitatif" (Course Documents)

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

- Last Class
- Read and mark Barack Obama's "A More Perfect Union" (Course Documents)
- Quotation Assignment #2 is due. Please download and type directly into the template for the quotation assignment (see the Assignments section of the class web page). Submit completed assignment to the "Quotation Assignment #2" portion of the Dropboxes section of the class web page in Blackboard.

Friday, May 3, 2019

- NO CLASS
- Final draft of Paper #2 due. Post to both the discussion board and the dropbox. See the paper checklist in the handouts section for details.

Monday, May 6, 2019

- NO CLASS
- Last day to submit a major paper rewrite by noon. Email rewrite directly to Dr. Halbert with "ENG 246 Rewrite" in the subject line. Make sure the file name references "rewrite."

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

- FINAL EXAM 8AM to 10AM in our normal classroom
- Bring exam card