DATE OF LAST REVIEW: 02/2013
CIP CODE: 24.0101
SEMESTER: Departmental Syllabus
COURSE TITLE: African American Literature
COURSE NUMBER: ENGL0214
CREDIT HOURS: 3
INSTRUCTOR: Departmental Syllabus
OFFICE LOCATION: Departmental Syllabus
OFFICE HOURS: Departmental Syllabus
TELEPHONE: Departmental Syllabus
EMAIL: Departmental Syllabus

KCKCC-issued email accounts are the official means for electronically communicating with our students.

PREREQUISITES: None

REQUIRED TEXT AND MATERIALS: Please check with the KCKCC bookstore, http://www.kckccbookstore.com/, for the required texts for your particular class.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This is a survey course of African American literature and culture examining the aesthetics of the African American literary tradition and exploring the African American experience through the analysis of music, poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and drama. The course content asks that we reconsider the sources of our knowledge of the past and to augment that knowledge through the voices of African Americans.

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION: A variety of instructional methods may be used depending on content area. These include but are not limited to: lecture, multimedia, cooperative/collaborative learning, labs and demonstrations, projects and presentations, speeches, debates, and panels, conferencing, performances, and learning experiences outside the classroom. Methodology will be selected to best meet student needs.
COURSE OUTLINE:
I. Antebellum Literature:
   A. Poetry
   B. Autobiography
   C. Fiction
   D. Political/social commentary

II. Civil War to World War I:
   A. Regional fiction
   B. Poetry
   C. Essays

III. The Harlem Renaissance:
   A. African American identity
   B. Modernism

IV. The Forties to 1970:
   A. Socialism
   B. The Black Arts Movement
   C. Civil Rights

V. The Black Aesthetic:
   A. Modernism
   B. Postmodernism

EXPECTED LEARNER OUTCOMES:
To recognize, define, or identify aspects of African American culture and literature
To recognize American literary traditions, in order to recognize African American contributions to the canon of American literature as a whole.
To develop critical thinking skills concerning textual style and content, affected by cultural and historical influences
To strengthen students’ abilities to write literary criticism and persuasive speaking and writing

COURSE COMPETENCIES:
The learner will be able to recognize, define or identify aspects of African American culture and literature, from the ability to:
1. Demonstrate knowledge of particular and general African American literary elements evident in oral and literary traditions
2. List primary African American cultural aspects, such as social practices and religious beliefs
3. Identify cultural and literary elements from general and specific African American culture in modern and contemporary literature
4. Demonstrate the interstitial connections between African and Western literary elements in modern and contemporary African American literature
5. Connect historical and cultural phenomenon and their influences on specific African American literature
The learner will be able to recognize American literary traditions, so they recognize African American contributions to the canon of American literature as a whole, from the ability to:

6. Specify the general literary periods in general American literature
7. Identify the general literary developments—from oral traditions to contemporary literature—in general African American literature
8. Recognize similarities and differences between Western and African American literary developments
9. Describe parallel literary periods for general American and African American literary movements
10. Explain how contemporary African American writers have influenced contemporary American writers in general, and vice versa

The learner will develop critical thinking skills concerning textual style and content, affected by cultural and historical influences, from the ability to:

11. Identify and define literary elements
12. Identify and define African American symbols and traditional literary elements
13. Determine how African American literary elements add meaning to modern and contemporary literature
14. Select secondary criticism which will support an arguable point of view

The learners will be able to strengthen their ability to write literary criticism and persuasive writing and speaking, from the ability to:

15. Anticipate and counter-argue secondary criticism which refutes the arguable point of view
16. Organize ideas around a strong central thesis in a formal literary analysis
17. Provide logical reasoning and evidence to support a central thesis and each sub-point
18. Identify multiple points of view, given specific cultural and historical contexts, regarding how a text or texts can be read
19. Analyze how each possible point of view determines the connotations of the text(s)
20. Choose a central thesis regarding the reading of the text(s)
21. Determine which points of view best support a central thesis regarding the reading of the text(s)
22. Outline ideas for a logical flow of argument, with identifiable transitional ideas
23. Organize ideas in a logical pattern which lend support to the central thesis
24. Thoroughly explain each sub-point with evidence from the text(s) and secondary sources
25. Write clear and enticing prose to create and sustain reader interest
26. Speak clearly and actively to create and maintain audience interest

ASSESSMENT OF LEARNER OUTCOMES:
Student progress is evaluated by means that include, but are not limited to, exams, written assignments, and class participation.

SPECIAL NOTES:
This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. (The previous sentence does not refer to the generic syllabus format.) Material included is intended to provide an outline of the course and rules that the instructor will adhere to in evaluating the student’s progress. However, this syllabus is not intended to be a legal contract. Questions regarding the syllabus are welcome any time.
Kansas City Kansas Community College is committed to an appreciation of diversity with respect for the differences among the diverse groups comprising our students, faculty, and staff that is free of bigotry and discrimination. Kansas City Kansas Community College is committed to providing a multicultural education and environment that reflects and respects diversity and that seeks to increase understanding.

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