

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College  
Course Content Summary**

**Course Prefix and Number:** ENG 254

**Credits:** 3

**Course Title:** Survey of African-American Literature II

**Course Description:** Examines selected works by African-American writers from the colonial period to the present, more specifically from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century to the present. Involves critical reading and writing. ENG 254 has been designated as a "writing intensive" course according to standards developed by the English department. Prerequisite: ENG 112 or equivalent. Lecture 3 hours per week.

**General Course Purpose:** ENG 254 develops skills in critical literacy, provides opportunities for humanistic study, and promotes an understanding of selected American literature from the pre-colonial period through the mid-nineteenth century. As a writing intensive course, ENG 254 will provide specific instruction in writing, especially literary analysis, and substantial written and oral feedback on formal writing, with the opportunity to revise at least one formal paper. Students will produce at least 12 pages (3000 words) of formal writing, including academic essays and essay exam responses, and at least 12 pages (3000 words) of informal writing, including reading responses or journal entries.

**Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:**

Prerequisite: ENG 112 or equivalent

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completing this course, the student will be able to

- a. Describe, analyze, and interpret themes and features of literary texts from a variety of genres, using appropriate literary terminology;
- b. Demonstrate knowledge of the literary movements covered in the survey, including literary techniques, innovations, major writers, and major texts;
- c. Explain the relationship between literature and the historical and cultural contexts in which it is produced, with particular attention to the shaping of cultural identities as reflected in the literature;
- d. Compose writing about literature that includes clear and concise argumentation and organization, valid textual evidence for support, and correct documentation; and
- e. Use literary study as a means for engaging in meaningful and enduring questions across human cultures.

**Major Topics to Be Included:**

Students may expect to study the following

- a. 20th-21st century African-American literature from a variety of genres, such as fiction, nonfiction, poetry, drama, and memoir;
- b. Literary movements, such as the Harlem/New Negro Renaissance, twentieth-century realism and modernism, the Black Arts movement, and contemporary African-American literature; and
- c. Social, political, and cultural movements from which the literature of this period emerges.

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