

TEXTS continued:

Lewis, David Levering, ed. *The Portable Harlem Renaissance Reader*. New York: Penguin, 1994.
Print. ISBN: 978-0140170368

Morrison, Toni. *Beloved*. New York: Vintage, 2004. Print. ISBN: 978-1400033416

Naylor, Gloria. *Linden Hills*. New York: Penguin, 1986. Print. ISBN: 978-0140088298

Wright, Richard. *Native Son*. New York: Harper Perennial, 2005. Print. ISBN: 978-0060837563

SUPPLIES:

A notebook or three-ring binder with ruled paper for in-class writing and note taking
Photocopying and printing expenses for written assignments and presentation materials
A jump drive for backing up all essays, assignments, and other homework

COURSE STANDARDS AND POLICIES:

Attendance: Punctuality and regular attendance are expected at all class meetings. Roll will be taken daily, and assignment points will be awarded for completion of quizzes, in-class assignments, various activities, and general discussion. Furthermore, vital information concerning the texts and the assignments will be covered in class, and this material will not be available otherwise.

Class Decorum and Behavior: Students are expected to be in class on time and to remain for the duration of the scheduled period. During class, students should listen attentively, engage respectfully in discussions, and **take notes**. They are also expected to come to class prepared (i.e., having read all of the assigned materials) and to participate in all in-class assignments and activities. Although water will be permitted, **food of any kind is not tolerated in the classroom, and cell phones must be turned off for the duration of class—this includes text messaging**. Students need to stay in their seats until class has been properly dismissed.

MLA Manuscript Format: All assignments must be word processed and comply with MLA formatting guidelines; that is, papers **must** have 1" margins; be typed in a 12-point, Times New Roman font; and be double spaced throughout. Students may **not** use cover pages; instead, the first page of all assignments must contain the student's name, the instructor's name, the course title, and the date (with the month spelled out) on separate lines against the left margin. All assignments must also have a descriptive title, centered and just below the date line. Each page must then have a page number, preceded by the student's last name, in the upper right corner (½" below the margin).

Essay Length: Writing assignments are given minimum page-length requirements, and these are references to **full pages**, not sheets. For example, a 6–8 page paper must be **at least** 6 full pages long, not just 5¼ pages. Works cited pages do not count towards the minimum requirements.

Late Work: All homework is due at the beginning of class on the day indicated in the course schedule. **LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**. Furthermore, assignments must be submitted as hard copies; **e-mails or other electronic submissions will not be accepted**. If students know they are going to miss class, assignments **must** be handed in early, not late. In extenuating circumstances, exceptions may be made **in advance** and at the instructor's discretion.

COURSE STANDARDS AND POLICIES continued:

Grades: All students' grades are recorded, managed, and calculated on an Excel spreadsheet, which is updated regularly. For privacy issues, these grades are not available on the internet; however, students may ask via e-mail or in person about their grades and current class standing.

Content Disclaimer: Many of the works assigned for this course are of an adult nature and deal with sensitive issues of racism, violence, and sexuality. Students are cautioned to approach this material with care and maturity, as the study of such content does not necessarily endorse its existence. Students who find such content offensive or objectionable are free to forego any reading assignment; however, no alternative readings or homework will be provided by the instructor.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Assignments: (20 percent of final grade)

Students will participate in various activities and complete many assignments in class, which will include reading quizzes, class discussions, student group discussions, in-class writing, and the viewing of each other's presentations. **Students must be in class to complete these activities and assignments.**

Critical Author Presentation: (30 percent of final grade)

Each student will investigate one of the authors listed on the course reading schedule and present his/her findings to the class. Students will begin by writing a formal 4–5 page essay that will focus initially on historical context and biographical details, but which will use that information to make a specific argument about the work of the author assigned for class reading and discussion. **Note: students must do more than just regurgitate biographical information or create a sterile encyclopedia entry;** they must do secondary research and craft a theoretical argument concerning the author and his/her example text.

After submitting a hard copy of the essay to the instructor, the student will read the paper to the class. A handout (with enough copies for the whole class [i.e., 25]), including a bibliography, must also be provided. Multimedia enhancements, such as a PowerPoint presentation, are encouraged, but not required.

Seminar Paper: (50 percent of final grade)

Each student will compose a critical seminar-style essay of 12–15 pages that makes an insightful literary argument about any author, text, theme, or group of the same covered in this course. Students should select projects that play to their strengths and academic/scholarly interests, perhaps building on their presentation essays. **Students should not delay in selecting their research topic!** Additional research will be necessary for this project (included primarily secondary source material), requiring proper 7th-edition MLA-style citations.

Students will compose a 6–8 page draft of this essay for instructor feedback (due just before Spring Break), meet with the instructor for a one-on-one conference, and revise the paper into a 12–15 page final draft. (Student peer review workshops are highly encouraged, and although they will not be formally facilitated by the instructor, a day of class time has been set aside for this purpose.) This Seminar Paper will be discussed in more detail in class.

GRADING POLICY:

Quizzes will be graded objectively; in-class assignments and activities will receive pass/fail grades; the presentation and the seminar paper will be carefully assessed and assigned a letter grade: work that exceeds expectations will receive an A grade; work that is competent and correct, a B; and work that barely meets the minimum requirements, a C or a D. Students’ final grades will be averaged and weighted according to the following grading scales (based on the University’s 4.0 grading system):

Grading Weights	Grading Scale			
Assignmentsx2 (20%)	3.8 – 4.0	A	1.8 – 2.0	C
Author Presentationx3 (30%)	3.4 – 3.7	A-	1.4 – 1.7	C-
Seminar Paper.....x5 (50%)	3.1 – 3.3	B+	1.1 – 1.3	D+
	2.8 – 3.0	B	0.8 – 1.0	D
	2.4 – 2.7	B-	0.4 – 0.7	D-
	2.1 – 2.3	C+	0.0 – 0.3	F

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY:

Scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent. **Any student caught deliberately plagiarizing a paper will immediately fail that assignment and possibly the entire course.** Students are expected to have read and understood the current issue of the student handbook regarding student responsibilities and rights, and the intellectual property policy, for information about procedures and about what constitutes acceptable on-campus behavior.

ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students with medical, psychological, learning, or other disabilities desiring academic adjustments, accommodations, or auxiliary aids will need to contact the Southern Utah University Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in Room 206F of the Sharwan Smith Center or phone (435) 865-8022. SSD determines eligibility for and authorizes the provision of services.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

In case of emergency, the University’s Emergency Notification System (ENS) will be activated. Students are encouraged to maintain updated contact information using the link on the homepage of the mySUU portal. In addition, students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Emergency Response Protocols posted in each classroom. Detailed information about the University’s emergency management plan can be found at <<http://www.suu.edu/ad/em/>>.

HEOA COMPLIANCE:

The sharing of copyrighted material through peer-to-peer (P2P) file sharing, except as provided under U.S. copyright law, is prohibited by law. Detailed information can be found at <<http://www.suu.edu/it/p2p-student-notice.html>>.

DISCLAIMER:

Information contained in this syllabus—other than the grading, late assignments, makeup work, and attendance policies—may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.