

ENGL3360 - Survey of African American Literature

This course introduces students to various **genres** of writing in the African American literary tradition. We will study slave narratives, autobiographies, poetry, novels, nonfiction essays, drama, and short stories. These works of literature will be studied as **aesthetic** responses to and reflections of particular historical moments in the United States: antebellum, post-Reconstruction, interwar, and post-World War II. Our literary-historical approach will focus on understanding how African Americans have contributed to and **signified** on major literary and artistic movements such as realism, naturalism, modernism, and postmodernism. Throughout the course, students will develop attentive reading, critical thinking, clear writing, and persuasive presentation skills to foster discussion of the themes constituting this literary tradition.