ADVANCE SYLLABUS

EARLY AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE
ENGLISH 203 - UC BERKELEY - FALL 2016

Professor Bryan Wagner
Contact: bwagner@berkeley.edu
Class Hours: Tue/Thu 12:30-2:00
Office Hours: Tue/Thu 2:00-3:30

REQUIRED BOOKS

Charles W. Chesnutt, *The Marrow of Tradition* (Penguin)
Charles W. Chesnutt, *Conjure Tales and Stories of the Color Line* (Penguin)
Frederick Douglass, *The Portable Frederick Douglass* (Penguin)
Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative and Other Writings* (Penguin)
Pauline E. Hopkins, *Of One Blood* (Washington Square)
Austin Reed, *The Life and the Adventures of a Haunted Convict* (Random House)
David Walker, *Appeal to the Coloured Citizens of the World* (Penn State)
Phillis Wheatley, *Complete Writings* (Penguin)

SUGGESTED BOOKS

Henry Louis Gates Jr., *The Trials of Phillis Wheatley* (Basic Books)

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

All other works are available in PDF format on BCourses. They can also be ordered as a three-volume course reader from Metro Publishing (2440 Bancroft Way, 510-644-1999).
WEEKLY READING AND WRITING

There is a lot of reading in this course. Be sure to read the primary works assigned for each week before turning to the suggested and supplementary materials. Each week you are responsible for posting a reading response under the “Discussions” tab on BCourses. Your response should be equivalent to at least a page of writing. Please read everyone’s responses before coming to class, and be sure to post your own response by 11pm on Monday to give everyone time to read it.

CRITICAL AND CONTEXTUAL SYNTHESIS

One time in the semester you will be responsible for posting a longer critical response in which you address the most important points from the week’s suggested and supplementary readings, noting ways in which they can enrich our conversation. This response should be equivalent to 3-5 pages of writing; it substitutes for your regular response for the week.

CONFERENCE PAPER

At the end of the semester, we will hold a conference at which students will give papers related to the course. We will follow the typical format for academic conferences, with each presentation allotted 15-20 minutes. Be sure to consult with me about the topics you are considering so I can help to guide your thinking. We will also have an in-class writing workshop on November 22.
AUGUST 25

Course Introduction

AUGUST 30 and SEPTEMBER 1

Primary Works

Phillis Wheatley, *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral* (1773)

Suggested Works

Lucy Terry, “Bars Fight” (1746)
Jupiter Hammon, “An Evening Thought” (1761) and “An Essay on Slavery” (1775)
Thomas Jefferson, “Query XIV” from *Notes on the State of Virginia* (1785)

Criticism and Context

Dickson D. Bruce, “Background” and “The Age of Revolution” (2001)

SEPTEMBER 6 and 8

Primary Works

Olaudah Equiano, *Interesting Narrative of the Life* (1789)

Suggested Works

Briton Hammon, *Narrative of the Uncommon Sufferings* (1760)
James Albert Gronniosaw, *Narrative of the Most Remarkable Particulars* (1772)
Ottobah Cugoano, *Thoughts and Sentiments on the Evils of Slavery* (1787)

Criticism and Context

SEPTEMBER 13 and 15

Primary Works

Robert Alexander Young, *The Ethiopian Manifesto* (1829)
David Walker, *Appeal . . . to the Coloured Citizens of the World* (1829)

Suggested Works

Cotton Mather, *Tremenda* (1721)
Abraham Johnstone, *Address of Abraham Johnstone* (1797)
James Hamilton, *Account of the Late Intended Insurrection* (1822)

Criticism and Context

David Allmendinger, “Rebellion” and “Telling Evidence” (2014)
Michael P. Johnson, “Denmark Vesey and His Co-Conspirators” (2001)

SEPTEMBER 20 and 22

Primary Works

Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life* (1845)
Frederick Douglass, *My Bondage and My Freedom* (1855)
Frederick Douglass, “Oration, Delivered in Corinthian Hall” (1852)

Suggested Works

Frederick Douglass, "The Heroic Slave" (1853)
Victor Séjour, “The Mulatto” (1837)
“Theresa; a Haytien Tale” (1828)

Criticism and Context

Manisha Sinha, “Fugitive Slave Abolitionism” and “Politics of Abolition” (2016)
John Hope Franklin and Loren Schweninger, “They Seek a City” and “The Hunt” (1999)
SEPTEMBER 27 and 29

Primary Works

Sojourner Truth, *Narrative of Sojourner Truth* (1850)
Sojourner Truth, “Address at the Woman’s Rights Convention” (1851)

Suggested Works

Frances D. Gage, “Sojourner Truth” (1881)
Harriet Beecher Stowe, “The Libyan Sibyl” (1863)
Henry Box Brown, *Narrative of the Life of Henry Box Brown* (1851)

Criticism and Context

Darcy Grimaldo Grigsby, “Negative-Positive Truths” (2011)

OCTOBER 4 and 6

Primary Works

* Austin Reed, *The Life and the Adventures of a Haunted Convict* (1858)

Suggested Works

Solomon Northup, *Twelve Years a Slave* (1853)
Martin R. Delany, *Blake; or the Huts of America* (1859-61)
William and Ellen Craft, *Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom* (1860)

Criticism and Context

Joan Dayan, “Legal Slaves and Civil Bodies” (2001)
Orlando Patterson, “Constituent Elements” and “Internal Relations” (1982)
OCTOBER 11 and 13

Primary Works

Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (1861)

Suggested Works

John S. Jacobs, “A True Tale of Slavery” (1861)
Maria Stewart, “Religion and the Pure Principles of Morality” (1831)
Harriet E. Wilson, *Our Nig, or Sketches from the Life of a Free Black* (1859)

Criticism and Context

Thavolia Glymph, “Beyond the Limits of Decency” (2008)

OCTOBER 18 and 20

Primary Works

Frances E. W. Harper, *Iola Leroy, or, Shadows Uplifted* (1892)

Suggested Works

Lydia Maria Child, “The Quadroons” (1842)
Anna Julia Cooper, “Women’s Cause is One and Universal” (1893)

Criticism and Context

Hazel Carby, “Black Feminist Thought after Emancipation” (1987)
OCTOBER 25 and 27

Primary Works

Paul Laurence Dunbar, *Lyrics of Lowly Life* (1896)

Suggested Works

Alice Moore Dunbar-Nelson, “Violets” (1895)
George Moses Horton, “George Moses Horton, Myself” (1865)

Criticism and Context

David W. Blight, “Literature of Reunion” and “Causes not Lost” (2001)
Kevin Young, “Paul Laurence Dunbar and His Descendants” (2012)

NOVEMBER 1 and 3

Primary Works

Charles W. Chesnutt, *The Conjure Woman* (1899)

Suggested Works

Ida B. Wells, *A Red Record* (1895)
Thomas Nelson Page, “Marse Chan” (1884)
Booker T. Washington, “Atlanta Compromise Address” (1895)

Criticism and Context

Richard Brodhead, “Reading of Regions” and “Transaction of Authorship” (1993)
Glenda R. Carpio, “Laffin’ Fit ter Kill” (2008)
NOVEMBER 8 and 10

Primary Works

Charles W. Chesnutt, The Marrow of Tradition (1901)

Suggested Works

Thomas Dixon, The Leopard's Spots: A Romance of the White Man's Burden (1902)
David Bryant Fulton, Hanover; or, The Persecution of the Lowly (1899)
Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Mob Rule in New Orleans (1900)

Criticism and Context


NOVEMBER 15 and 17

Primary Works

W. E. B. Du Bois, The Souls of Black Folk (1903)

Suggested Works

Plessy v. Ferguson 163 U.S. 537 (1896)
William James, “The Consciousness of Self” (1890)
W. E. B. Du Bois, “Propaganda of History” (1936)

Criticism and Context

NOVEMBER 22

Writing Workshop: Before 7pm on Monday, post a 300-word abstract for the paper you will deliver at our conference in the "Writing Workshop" topic under the "Discussions" tab on BCourses. Read everyone's abstracts, and come to class ready to discuss them.

NOVEMBER 29 and DECEMBER 1

Primary Works

Pauline E. Hopkins, Of One Blood (1903)

Suggested Works

Alexander Crummell, Civilization, The Primal Need of the Race (1898)
W. E. B. DuBois, "The Conservation of Races" (1897)
Sutton Griggs, Imperium in Imperio (1899)

Criticism and Context


CONFERENCE

Date and location to be determined
COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY


Henry Box Brown, Narrative of the Life of Henry Box Brown, Written by Himself (Manchester, U. K.: Lee and Glynn, 1851).


Jupiter Hammon, *An Evening Thought. Salvation by Christ with Penitential Cries*: Composed by Jupiter Hammon, a Negro belonging to Mr. Lloyd of Queen's Village, on Long Island, the 25th of December, 1760 (Hartford: Printed for the Author, 1761).


Cotton Mather, *Tremenda: The Dreadful Sound with which the Wicked are to be Thunderstruck* (Boston: B. Green, 1721).


Orlando Patterson, “The Constituent Elements of Slavery” and “The Internal Relations of Slavery” in *Slavery and Social Death: A Comparative Study* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1982), 1-104.


Maria W. Steward [sic], *Religion and the Pure Principles of Morality, the Sure Foundation on which We Must Build* (Boston: Garrison and Knapp, 1831).


Sojourner Truth, *Narrative of Sojourner Truth* (Boston: Printed by the Author, 1850)


Harriet E. Wilson, *Our Nig, or Sketches from the Life of a Free Black* (Boston: Rand and Avery, 1859).


Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Mob Rule in New Orleans: Robert Charles and His Fight to Death, the Story of His Life, Burning Human Beings Alive, Other Lynching Statistics (Chicago: Printed by the Author, 1900).


