

Fall 2018

<b>Meeting days:</b> Tues/Thur	<b>Instructor:</b> Karl Martin, PhD
<b>Meeting times:</b> 8:00-9:15	<b>Phone:</b> 2275
<b>Meeting location:</b> BAC 103	<b>E-mail:</b> karlmartin@pointloma.edu
<b>Final Exam:</b> Dec. 11, 7:30-10:00	<b>Office location and hours:</b> BAC 113, , MWF 10:30-11:30, Tues/Thur 3:00-4:00

PLNU Mission

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Diverse Voices in American Literature is a course designed to allow students to listen to the voices of American writers representing groups who have often been oppressed or marginalized by the dominant culture in the United States. We listen to these voices with the hope that they can teach us more about both the promise of the American experience and the challenges we face in striving to be a nation that lives up to that promise for all of its citizens. Content will vary each time the course is taught. This semester we will read works of literature closely connected to or inspired by African American music.

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

*Upon completion of the course students will be able to:*

1. Closely read and critically analyze texts in their original languages and/or in translation.
2. Recall, identify, and use fundamental concepts of literary study to read and discuss texts
  - a. Standard literary terminology
  - b. Modes/genres of literature
  - c. Elements of literary genres
  - d. Literary periods (dates, writers, characteristics, and important developments)
  - e. Contemporary critical approaches
  - f. Extra-literary research
3. Analyze the social, cultural, ethnic, gendered, and/or historical contexts of the works and their authors, and connect the texts with their own lives.

## TEXTS

Course Reading Packet

James Weldon Johnson, *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man*

Toni Morrison, *Jazz*

Ed Piskor, *Hip Hop Family Tree Book 1*

August Wilson, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*

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## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

*Reading:* Dates for the readings are indicated on the schedule. Read daily if possible and complete all reading prior to the class session when the text will be discussed. You will also keep a reading journal detailing your response to the readings. The journals will be collected five times during the semester.

*Discussion:* The success of the course will be directly related to the quality of daily discussions. Each of you should feel comfortable contributing to discussions. And each of you should bring any questions you have about the reading to our attention during the course of our discussions.

*Writing:* Each student will complete a mid-term exam, a final exam, and a brief reflection essay written outside of class. Students cannot pass the course without completing all of these major assignments. Late essays will receive a ten percent daily deduction and will not be accepted when the value would be zero.

*Creative or Scholarly Project:* In groups no larger than five, students will complete a creative or scholarly project related to the course material and present their work in class. Class presentation will be between seven and ten minutes in length. A group grade will be given for the project. Each group will turn in a list of Works Consulted and each student in the group will complete a one-page summary of the project and her or his role in its preparation.

*Attendance:* Because your participation is essential, your attendance is mandatory. More than four absences for any reason will result in your final grade being lowered. Students who miss more than nine class sessions will be de-enrolled.

## ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Your final grade will be determined as follows:		Approximate grade scale:	
Reading Journal	100 Points	A=93-100	C=73-76
Mid-Term Exam	300 Points	A-=92-90	C-=70-72
Final Exam	300 Points	B+=87-89	D+=67-69
Reflective Essay	100 Points	B=83-86	D=63-66
Group Presentation	150 Points	B-=80-82	D-=60-62
Participation	50 Points	C+=77-79	F=0-59

## **GENERAL EDUCATION**

PLNU provides a foundational course of study in the liberal arts informed by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In keeping with the Wesleyan tradition, the curriculum equips students with a broad range of knowledge and skills within and across disciplines to enrich major study, lifelong learning, and vocational service as Christ-like participants in the world's diverse societies and cultures.

Lit 352 is a course approved for credit in the General Education program of PLNU. Its content is designed to help students meet General Education Learning Outcome 2b “Students will understand and appreciate diverse forms of artistic expression.” The Learning Outcome will be measured by the Reflective Essay which will ask students to select appropriate course material and respond to the following prompt: “In what ways and to what degree has this literary work (novel, play, poem, short story, essay, creative nonfiction, film) impacted your cultural perspectives, AND what connections have you made between this work and other university courses and/or your own life experience?”

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## **INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due—including assignments posted in Canvas. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

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## **FINAL EXAMINATION POLICY**

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination **on its scheduled day**. The final examination schedule is posted on the [Class Schedules](#) site. No requests for early examinations or alternative days will be approved.

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## **PLNU COPYRIGHT POLICY**

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

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## **PLNU ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY**

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one’s own when in reality they are the results of another person’s creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

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## **PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY**

If you have a diagnosed disability, please contact PLNU’s Disability Resource Center (DRC) to demonstrate need and to register for accommodation by phone at 619-849-2486 or by e-mail at [DRC@pointloma.edu](mailto:DRC@pointloma.edu). See [Disability Resource Center](#) for additional information.

## **PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY**

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Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings, the faculty member can file a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog.

READING SCHEDULE FOR LIT 352 Diverse Voices in American Literature

Thur. 8/30	Introduction: Listening to African American Music
Tues. 9/4	Douglass and DuBois
Thur. 9/6	Harper, Johnson (two poems), and Dunbar
Tues. 9/11	Johnson, <i>Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man</i> , Chapters I-V
Thur. 9/13	Johnson, <i>Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man</i> , Chapters VI-IX
Tues. 9/18	Johnson, <i>Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man</i> , Chapters X-XI
Thur. 9/20	McKay and Brown
Tues. 9/25	Hughes
Thur. 9/27	Hayden, Harper, and Sanchez
Tues. 10/2	Spellman, Neal, and Giovanni
Thur. 10/4	Tolson, Williams, Young
Tues. 10/9	Wilson, <i>Ma Rainey's Black Bottom</i> , Act One
Thur. 10/11	Wilson, <i>Ma Rainey's Black Bottom</i> , Act One (continued)
Tues. 10/16	Wilson, <i>Ma Rainey's Black Bottom</i> , Act Two
Thur. 10/18	<b>Mid-Term Exam</b>
Tues. 10/23	Baldwin
Thur. 10/25	Morrison, <i>Jazz</i> , pages 3-51
Tues. 10/30	Morrison, <i>Jazz</i> , pages 53-135
Thur. 11/1	Morrison, <i>Jazz</i> , pages 137-184
Tues. 11/6	Morrison, <i>Jazz</i> , pages 187-229
Thur. 11/8	Walker
Tues. 11/13	Piskor, <i>Hip Hop Family Tree</i> , pages 5-33
Thur. 11/15	Piskor, <i>Hip Hop Family Tree</i> , pages 34-65
Tues. 11/20	Piskor, <i>Hip Hop Family Tree</i> , pages 66-94
Thur. 11/22	<b>No Class Session in Honor of Thanksgiving</b>
Tues. 11/27	Group Presentations
Thur. 11/29	Group Presentations
Tues. 12/4	Group Presentations
Thur. 12/6	Conclusion of the Course
Thur. 12/11	<b>Final Exam 7:30-10:00</b>