



Meeting days: Tuesday and Thursday	Instructor: Karl Martin, PhD
Meeting times: 9:30-10:45	Phone: 2275
Meeting location: BAC 103	E-mail: karlmartin@pointloma.edu
Office location: BAC 113	Office hours: Monday-Friday 10:30-11:30
Final Exam: Tuesday, Dec.15th, 10:30-100	

**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 becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire 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 from the African American literary tradition. The course fulfills a general education requirement and a requirement for Literature majors.

**GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES**

*Context #2: Growing, In a Christ-Centered Faith Community*

**Institutional Learning Outcome #2: Students will develop a deeper and more informed understanding of self and others as they negotiate complex environments.**

General Education Learning Outcome 2a. Students will develop an understanding of self that fosters personal wellbeing.

General Education Learning Outcome 2b. Students will understand and appreciate diverse forms of artistic expression.

General Education Learning Outcome 2c. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the complex issues faced by diverse groups in global and/or cross-cultural contexts.

**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.

### **COURSE CREDIT HOUR INFORMATION**

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 3 unit class delivered over 15 weeks. Specific details about how the class meets the credit hour requirement can be provided upon request.

### **TEXTS**

Charles Chesnutt, *The Marrow of Tradition*  
Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*  
Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*  
Langston Hughes, *Selected Poems*  
James Weldon Johnson, *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man*  
Toni Morrison, *Jazz*  
Gloria Naylor, *The Women of Brewster Place*  
Ishmael Reed, *Mumbo Jumbo*

### **COURSE REQUIRMENTS**

*Reading:* Dates for the readings are clearly indicated on the schedule. Read daily if possible and complete all reading prior to the class session when the text will be discussed.

*Discussion:* The success of the course will be directly related to the quality of daily discussions. Each of you must 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 4-6 page research 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 of three or four, students will complete a creative or scholarly project related to one of the assigned texts 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 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:

Mid-Term Exam	250 Points
Final Exam	300 Points
Response Essay	250 Points
Group Presentation	150 Points
Participation	50 Points

Your work will not be graded on a curve. A traditional scale will be used. Those who earn more than 90% of the possible points earn an A, those who earn between 80-89% of the points earn a B, and so on.

A indicates exceptional work (roughly 20% of students normally achieve this level)

B indicates superior work (roughly 30% of students normally achieve this level)

C indicates average work

D indicates passing work

F indicates unsatisfactory work

## ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

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 has the option of filing a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice. If the date of de-enrollment is past the last date to withdraw from a class, the student will be assigned a grade of W or WF consistent with university policy in the grading section of the catalog. See Academic Policies in the undergraduate academic catalog.

## ACADEMIC HONESTY

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. As explained in the university catalog, 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. Violations of university academic honesty include cheating, plagiarism, falsification, aiding the academic dishonesty of others, or malicious misuse of university resources. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for a) that particular assignment or examination, and/or b) the course following the procedure in the university catalog. Students may appeal also using the procedure in the university catalog. See Academic Policies for further information.

## ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

While all students are expected to meet the minimum academic standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may request academic accommodations. At Point Loma Nazarene University, students must request that academic accommodations by filing documentation with the Disability Resource Center (DRC), located in the Bond Academic Center. Once the student files documentation, the Disability Resource Center will contact the student's instructors and provide written recommendations for reasonable and appropriate accommodations to meet the individual needs of the student. See Academic Policies in the undergraduate academic catalog.

## FERPA POLICY

In compliance with federal law, neither PLNU student ID nor social security number should be used in publicly posted grades or returned sets of assignments without student written permission. This class will meet the federal requirements by. Also in compliance with FERPA, you will be the only person given information about your progress in this class unless you have designated others to receive it in the "Information Release" section of the student portal. See Policy Statements in the undergraduate academic catalog.

## 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.

### READING SCHEDULE FOR LIT 352 Diverse Voices in American Literature

Thur. 9/3	Listening to African American Culture
Tues. 9/8	Douglass, Preface through Chapter 8
Thur. 9/10	Douglass, Chapter 9 through Appendix
Tues. 9/15	Chesnutt, Chapters 1-15
Thur. 9/17	Chesnutt, Chapters 16- 25
Tues. 9/22	Chesnutt, Chapters 26-37
Thur. 9/24	Johnson, Chapters 1-5
Tues. 9/29	Johnson, Chapters 6-9
Thur. 10/1	Johnson, Chapters 10-11
Tues. 10/6	Hughes, pages 3-103
Thur. 10/8	Hughes, pages 107-174
Tues. 10/13	Hughes, pages 177-297
Thur. 10/15	<b>Mid-Term Exam</b>
Tues. 10/20	Ellison, Prologue through Chapter 5
Thur. 10/22	Ellison, Chapter 6 through Chapter 10
Tues. 10/27	Ellison, Chapter 11 through Chapter 15
Thur. 10/29	Ellison, Chapter 16 through Chapter 18
Tues. 11/3	Ellison, Chapter 19 through Chapter 23
Thur. 11/5	Ellison, Chapter 24 through Epilogue
Tues. 11/10	Reed, pages 1-82
Thur. 11/12	Reed, pages 82-144
Tues. 11/17	Reed, 144-218
Thur. 11/19	Naylor, Dawn through Kiswana Browne
Tues. 11/24	Naylor, Lucielia Louise Turner through Cora Lee
Thur. 11/26	<b>No Class Session in Honor of Thanksgiving</b>
Tues. 12/1	Naylor, The Two through Dusk
Thur. 12/3	Morrison, pages 1-114
Tues. 12/8	Morrison, pages 117-184
Thur. 12/10	Morrison, pages 187-229
Tues. 12/15	<b>Final Exam 10:30-1:00</b>