

## African American Literature II: Since the Harlem Renaissance (ENGL 02355.1)

Fall 2021, Fridays 9:30-10:45am & 11-12:15pm



In African American Literature II, we will examine themes and issues commonly found in African American literature published since the Harlem Renaissance. We will explore topics such as racial identity, gender, black feminism, class, antiblackness, memory, and the afterlife of slavery. We will analyze theories of racial consciousness such as Black Power and black aesthetics, bearing in mind how certain historical, political, social, and cultural factors influenced the literature and culture. We will read African American texts in exploration of a few framing questions, including: How does race, gender, class, and sexuality shape representation in African American literature and culture? What is the ongoing relevance of plantation slavery to post-emancipation life? How has African American literature been reflective of and instructive for Black life in the United States? (Three semester hours.)

We will read a variety of poems, short stories, plays, essays, and excerpts from novels, as well as one to two full-length narratives, which may include:

- Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*
- James Baldwin, *Notes from a Native Son*
- Ann Petry, from *The Street*
- Robert Jones, Jr., *The Prophets*
- Brit Bennett, *The Vanishing Half*
- Jesmyn Ward, *Sing, Unburied, Sing*

This course fulfills:

- English Major upper-level elective and Diversity and Inclusion requirements
- Multiethnic Literatures of the United States Concentration requirement (English Majors only)

And is an elective course option for:

- Multiethnic Literatures of the United States Certificate of Undergraduate Study (non-English Majors only)
- American Studies Major and Minor (also fulfills program Diversity requirements), Africana Studies Major, and this course is a Diversity elective option in a number of Liberal Studies: Humanities and Social Science Program Sequences (see the Liberal Studies website for more details).

For more information on this class, please contact Dr. Marquita Smith, English Dept.:  
smithmr@rowan.edu