

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary**

Course Prefix and Number: ENG 253

Credits: 3

Course Title: Survey of African American Literature I

Course Description (including lecture hours, lab hours, total contacts)

Survey of African American Literature I introduces students to the rich and varied heritage of the African American literary culture as it emerges from the 18th century, with an emphasis on the vernacular tradition, through the philosophical ideology of the New Negro movement in the 20th century. Involves critical reading and writing. The course examines the significant contributions of African American literature and its place within the historical and literary context of America's literatures. ENG 253 has been designated as a "writing intensive" course according to standards developed by the English Department. ENG 253 and 254 may be taken out of order. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

ENG 253 develops skills in critical literacy, provides opportunities for self-expression, and promotes understanding of multiple genres of African American literature of the 18th through the early 20th century. As a writing intensive course, ENG 253 will provide specific instruction in writing, especially literary analysis, substantial written and oral feedback on formal writing, with the opportunity to revise at least one formal paper. Upon successful completion of the course, students will have produced at least 12–15 pages of formal writing, including academic essays and essay exam responses, and 12–15 pages of informal writing, including reading responses or journal entries.

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites (*Entry-level competencies **required** for enrollment*)

ENG 112 or Divisional Approval

Course Objectives Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- a. analyze and interpret the critical African American texts of the early 18th century through the early 20th century;
- b. identify critical movements and developments in the African American literary communities;
- c. place the literary contributions of African American writers within the social and political context of this country and this century;
- d. write critically and analytically about literary texts.

Major Topics to be Included

- a. Examination of texts authored by African Americans.
- b. Examination of social, political and cultural movements from which the literature emerges.
- c. Examination of issues relevant to the emergence of a "Negro literature," 1746 – 1865; literature in the construction of identity, 1865 – 1919; literature of transformation and self-definition, early 20th century.
- d. Development of critical thinking and writing skills.

Effective Date of Course Content Summary (Month, Date Year): February 13, 2009