

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

**Course Prefix and Number: ENG 254**

**Credits: 3**

**Course Title: Survey of African American Literature II**

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

Survey of African American II introduces students to the rich and varied heritage of the African American literary culture as it emerges from Reconstruction to the contemporary period. 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 American literature. ENG 254 has been designated as a "writing intensive" course according to standards developed by the English Department. Prerequisite: ENG 112 or approval by the English program head. Lecture 3 hours per week.

**General Course Purpose**

ENG 254 develops skills in critical literacy, provides opportunities for self-expression, and promotes understanding of multiple genres of African American literature of from Reconstruction to the contemporary period. As a writing intensive course, ENG 254 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 post-Civil War to the contemporary period;
- b. identify critical movements and developments in the African American literary communities of the 20th century;
- 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 late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century African American fiction, poetry, drama, and non-fiction.
- b. Examination of social, political and cultural movements from which the literature emerges.
- c. Examination of issues relevant to the theories of *marginalization*, *race*, and *minority cultures*.
- d. Development of critical thinking and writing skills.

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