

**SYLLABUS FOR GSTR 100, STORIES: ENCOUNTERING OTHERS THROUGH
LITERATURE: AFRICAN HISTORY AND FICTION
FALL, 2004
SECTIONS C AND K**

Section C	9 MTWF	Phelps-Stokes 203
Section G	10 MTWF	Phelps-Stokes 203

Faculty: Andrew Baskin
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CPO 1715
Office Hours: Posted on Office Door

COURSE DESCRIPTION: ALL SECTIONS OF GSTR 100

Reading and responding to narratives, students will engage in social, moral, and religious inquiry. The stories provide opportunities for students to explore cultural heritage, cultural diversity, gender, race, and ethnicity and to read material written by African Americans and Appalachians.

SECTIONS C AND G:

This course is designed to use the fictional writings of selected African Americans to examine certain aspects of the history of African Americans. The students will be expected to evaluate the history of African Americans in the United States as presented by these selected writers. In addition, the required text will allow students to examine some of the issues that confront both Black and White residents of Appalachia.

GOALS OF THIS COURSE

For the student to--

- A. Increase knowledge about the experiences of African Americans and Appalachians
- B. Improve communication skills (listening, writing, thinking, and speaking) through the use of class discussions and writing assignments
- C. Value the experiences of African Americans and Appalachians
- D. Increase awareness of his/her place within a national perspective
- E. Enjoy reading
- F. Enhance creative thinking and focus imagination

ATTENDANCE POLICY

One of the objectives of this course is to have all students participate in class discussion. This objective can only be achieved if the students are in attendance. Thus, class attendance is crucial. Missing class more than three times, no matter whether the absence is excused or unexcused, will result in a penalty of **five** points per absence being deducted from the final grade. Also, punctuality is also important. Please do not enter the classroom if you are tardy.

REQUIRED READING/TEXTS

Author	Title
Ansa, Tina	Ugly Ways
Gaines, Ernest	A Lesson Before Dying
Giardina, Denise	Storming Heaven
Lunsford, Andrea and Robert Connors	The New St. Martin's Handbook
Mosley, Walter	Walkin' the Dog
Webb, Frank	The Garies and Their Friends
Wilkinson, Crystal	Blackberries, Blackberries

GRADING SCALE:

A= 100-90, B= 89-80, C= 79-70, D= 69-60, F= 59-0

A= Signifies consistently outstanding achievement in all aspects of the course

B= Reflects work of good to very good quality. Work at this level often has outstanding characteristics but is not consistently outstanding throughout the semester or in all aspects of the course

C= Denotes that the student has attained an acceptable level of competence. The student has demonstrated a basic understanding of the course material and abilities to proceed to more advanced courses in this area

D= Is minimally adequate. A "D" raises serious concern about the readiness of a student to continue in related course work

F= Is unsatisfactory and unworthy of [college] credit

EVALUATION PROCEDURES

A.	Essays and book reviews	75%
B.	Oral participation	10%
C.	Final Examination	15%

GENERAL COMMENTS

1. The class is structured as a seminar. All students are expected to contribute and to learn from each other. Thus, all students will be expected to listen carefully and to respect the comments of others.
2. One of the primary goals of the course is to improve the written communication skills of students. To assist students in achieving this goal, consultation with The Learning Center staff and/or student teaching assistants for sections C and G will be encouraged and sometimes, required. The center is located in Draper 106
3. Attendance at certain convocations will be required. Specific guidelines will be given at a later date.
4. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. You are expected to do your own work for classes. See **Berea College Student Handbook** for a discussion of academic dishonesty. Anyone convicted of academic dishonesty should expect the harshest penalty possible.

5. Written material is due on the identified date; late papers will not be accepted unless the faculty member grants approval. Also, students are encouraged to initiate conferences with the faculty member as needed.

TOPICAL OUTLINE

Specific reading and writing assignments for each class session will be given at a later date. However, the books will be read in the following order:

- **Storming Heaven**
- **A Lesson Before Dying**
- **The Garies and Their Friends**
- **Ugly Ways**
- **Walkin' the Dog**
- **Blackberries, Blackberries**

FINAL EXAMINATION SCHEDULE

Section C	10 a.m., Monday, December 13
Section G	3 p.m., Tuesday, December 14