Course Unit Descriptor

Study Programme: English Studies

Course Unit Title: African American Literature - Survey

Course Unit Code: 15EJEJ51

Name of Lecturer(s): Prof. Aleksandra Izgarjan, PhD

Type and Level of Studies: Bachelor

Course Status (compulsory/elective): elective

Semester (winter/summer): summer

Language of instruction: English

Mode of course unit delivery (face-to-face/distance learning): face to face

Number of ECTS Allocated: 3

Prerequisites: /

Course Aims:

The course offers a survey of the major writers of African American literature. It begins with slave narratives and explores how this form had influenced the development of African American writing in the twentieth century. Next it explores some of the most significant African American authors ranging from the twenties and thirties to the contemporary ones.

Learning Outcomes:

The aim of the course is to study major themes of the African American literature, changing attitudes of

African American authors toward their immediate community (and the wider white one) as well as social and historical phenomena that shaped these experiences.

Syllabus:

Theory

Frederick Douglass, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass

Harriet Jacobs, Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl

Langston Hughes, Selected Poems

Zora Neale Hurston, Their Eyes Were Watching God

Maya Angelou, Selected Poems

Alice Walker, The Color Purple

Toni Morrison, Beloved

Practice

Descriptive and comparative method, close reading.

Required Reading:

Douglass Frederick, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, Modern Library, 2000

Jacobs Harriet, Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, Modern Library, 2000

Neale Hurston Zora, Their Eyes Were Watching God, HarperCollins Publishers, 1990

Walker Alice, The Color Purple, Simon & Schuster, 1982

Christian Barbara, Black Feminist Criticism: Perspectives on Black Women Writers, Pergamon Press, 1985

Christian Barbara, Black Women Novelists: the Development of a Tradition 1892 – 1976, Westport: Greenwood

Press, 1980

Weekly Contact Hours:	Lectures:	Practical work:
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Teaching Methods:				
Knowledge Assessment (maximum of 100 points):				
Pre-exam obligations	points	Final exam	points	
Active class		written exam	50	
participation		written exam	30	
Practical work		oral exam	50	
Preliminary exam(s)				
Seminar(s)				