



Dubuque COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Course Syllabus: African American Literature

Course Description

This one-semester course is designed for students interested in exploring African American literature through historical chronology, as well as a cultural and political lens. Throughout the literature, students will examine how gender, race, and class issues influenced the works of the authors. The African American Literature course delivers a thematic-based survey exploring a broad range of (mostly) African American writers, poets, journalists, critics, filmmakers, lyricists, musicians, essayists, etc. encompassing fiction and nonfiction works. Targeted universal themes include identity (including the dual-self and communal), perceptions/images, voice, conflict, justice, and influence.

[View the Iowa Core Standards related to this course](#)

Resources

Core text:

- *The Norton Anthology of African American Literature* by Henry Louis Gates Jr. and Valeria Smith, editors (2014)

Supporting/supplemental text:

- *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates
- *The Piano Lesson* by August Wilson

Grading Scale

A 100 – 93
A- 92 – 90
B+ 89 – 87
B 86 – 83
B- 82 – 80
C+ 79 – 77
C 76 – 73
C- 72 – 70
D+ 69 – 67
D 66 – 63
D- 62 – 60
F Below 60%

Parent/Guardian Access to Canvas

Parents/guardians may access their student's courses as an observer on the district's Canvas Learning Management System.

[Instructions: How to Observe Your Child's Canvas Classes](#)