

Their Eyes were Watching God: An Introduction to Afro-American Literature (ENGL 2212)

Credit Hour: 4

Teaching Mode: In Person

Schedule: Monday to Friday (9:00am - 11:50am)

Instructor: Sadia Zulfiqar

Description:

This course will introduce students to powerful African voices and their constant and consistent negotiations with identity politics. Seminars will cover fictions, plays, poetry, music, and cinema (movies would be watched at home) and discuss the construction of race (both black and white), slave narratives, civil right movements, and contemporary Afro-American concerns. This course will also highlight the blind spot of the suffragist and the complete absence (or forced exclusion) of black women from the movements. Rap music and videos both play an important role in bringing out the marginalized narratives of ghettos and the discussions around hip-hop will help students to explore how music enables Afro-Americans to forge their own (alternative) identities. The thematic and cultural analyses of the literary texts will also give a nuanced understanding of the political aesthetics of Afro-American literature and its ongoing concerns with the construction of black identity in a predominantly white environment.