****

**African American Literature**

**ISHU 4171, sec. 101**

**Fall 2014**

**Hilary Holladay, Ph.D.**

[**hh4j@virginia.edu**](mailto:hh4j@virginia.edu)

**540.661.2931 (cell)**

**Level:** Undergraduate

**Credit Type:** 3 credits

**Class Description:** Explores African American Literature beginning with *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (1845) and concluding with Edward P. Jones’s *Lost in the City* (2004). Surveys works of fiction, poetry, and plays by well-known authors. Examines portrayals of race and gender relations, families and communities, and individual quests for justice and autonomy.

**Required Texts:**

*(1) Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* by Frederick Douglass

ISBN: 978-0486284996 (Dover Thrift)

*(2) Kindred* by Octavia Butler

ISBN: 978-0807083697 (Beacon)

*(3) Vintage Book of African American Poetry* by Michael S. Harper and Anthony Walton, editors

ISBN: 978-0375703003 (Vintage)

*(4) Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston

ISBN: 978-0061120060 (Harper Perennial)

*(5) Native Son* by Richard Wright

ASIN: B0010WECYW (Perennial)

*(6) The Street* by Ann Petry

ISBN: 978-0395901496 (Mariner Books)

(7) *Intimate Apparel* by Lynn Nottage

ISBN: 978-0-82222009-1 (Dramatists Play Service)

*(8) Fences* by August Wilson

ISBN: 978-0452264014 (Plume)

*(9) Lost in the City* by Edward P. Jones

ISBN: 978-0060795283 (Harper Collins)

**Learning Outcomes:** This course will introduce you to the African American literary tradition; enhance your understanding of American history, culture, and politics; and strengthen your writing, reasoning, and argumentation skills.

Throughout the semester, we will analyze the African American pursuit of freedom, justice, literacy, and autonomy, and discuss the psychological, social, and cultural costs of slavery and racism. We will also examine the complex portrayals of individuals, families, and communities as seen in fiction, poetry, drama, and autobiography. Close attention be paid to both form and content.

**Assessment Components**: You will write several analytical papers, take a series of quizzes, and complete a final exam.

**Required Technical Resources**: You will need regular access to the Internet and email.