Department: English  
Course: African American Literature I  
Level: Honors, 11th & 12th grade  
Credits: 2.5

Course Description:
This class will examine the development of the African American literary tradition through the consideration of history, literary genres, and cultural forms. We will study a range of genres, including fiction, poetry, drama, autobiography, and nonfiction, from the earliest published work by African Americans through to the Harlem Renaissance.

Standards:
NJSLS:
Reading Literature: 11-12. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6,  
Reading Informational: 11-12. 1, 2, 4, 5  
Writing: 11-12. 1, 2, 3, 6, 9  
Speaking & Listening: 11-12. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6

Anchor Text(s):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text Title</th>
<th>Publisher/Author</th>
<th>Year/Edition</th>
<th>ISBN</th>
<th>Text Distribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The African American Experience</td>
<td>Black Dog &amp; Leventhal/ Kai Wright</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>9781579127732</td>
<td>Hard copy</td>
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Supplementary Materials:
Documentaries  
Films  
Newspaper articles  
Historical documents

Units of Study:
The Divided Selves of the African  
The Underground Sings  
Freedom for Mind, Body, & Soul  
The Strivers’ Movement
Proficiencies:
By the end of this course, students will:
• improve close reading and analytical strategies though careful annotation and Cornell note taking;
• employ a wide variety of writing strategies and techniques;
• improve organization in writing through the use of rhetorical modes and appeals to improve coherence;
• effectively state, support, and explain their claims in both formal and informal arguments, in written and oral presentations;
• develop cross-curricular connections through discussion, inquiry, and writing;
• cite primary and secondary sources using MLA guidelines.

Evaluation & Assessment:
• Marking period grades for this course will be determined as follows:
  o 45% - Tests/Quizzes/Seminars (Socratic seminars, written assessments such as multiple choice, short answer responses, reading checks, note checks, written assessments (multiple choice, short answer responses, etc.)
  o 40% - Projects/Essays/Research (group projects, presentations, high stakes writing like essays, reports, speeches, research papers, etc.)
  o 15% - Homework/Classwork (dialectical notes, annotations of text, reading, Q&A, journaling, discussions, pair/group work, reading, reflection, note taking, etc.)
• Rubrics / criteria for evaluation will be provided for each writing assignment and project.
• Writing portfolios are used in the classroom. Students are to file and store their work in the portfolio for review and assessment, which will periodically be conducted by both the student and the teacher.
• The final grade for the course will consist of each marking period (45% each) average and the final exam (10%) grade.