

**MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES**  
**SYLLABUS**  
**EN 365-01 ONLINE**

<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	:	<b>African-American Literature Part 2</b>
<b>COURSE CREDIT</b>	:	<b>Three (3) hours</b>
<b>ACADEMIC TERM &amp; YEAR</b>	:	<b>Fall 2018</b>
<b>MEETING DAYS, TIME &amp; LOCATION OF CLASS</b>	:	<b>Online</b>
<b>PROFESSOR</b>	:	<b>Dr. Shahara'Tova V. Dente</b>
<b>Office Location</b>	:	<b>TED 166</b>
<b>Office Hours</b>	:	<b>Mon 9:50 am -1:30 pm</b> <b>Wed 9:50 am-1:00 pm</b> <b>Fri 9:50 am- 1:00 pm</b>
<b>Office Phone Number</b>	:	<b>662-254-3678</b>
<b>E-mail address</b>	:	<a href="mailto:dente.shaharatova@mvsu.edu"><u>dente.shaharatova@mvsu.edu</u></a>

### **Course Description**

During the semester, you will:

- Become familiar with critical periods, discourses, and writers in the African American literary tradition and develop an understanding of the historical and cultural contexts that shape that tradition.
- Strengthen your analytical reading and critical thinking skills – especially as related to issues of ideology, identity (race, class, gender) and difference – through rigorous engagement with a range of texts (formal literature, music, and critical essays).
- Develop and enhance your analytical writing skills through a) the crafting of clear, coherent, well organized formal essays with thoughtful, well-articulated and supported theses and b) the completion of other more informal writing exercises including discussion posts and short reading responses.

### **Expected Student Learning Outcomes:**

- To improve students' reading comprehension skills, content knowledge, analytical abilities, and interpretation through close reading and analysis of selections from African-American Literature after the Renaissance through contemporary literatures.
- To develop students' skills in written expression—emphasizing clarity, organization, specificity, and standard American English.
- To promote students' awareness and sensitivity to the aesthetics—intellectual, emotional, and cultural—inherent in African-American literature using a reader response approach.

**Required Texts:**

1. The Norton Anthology of African American Literature **3<sup>rd</sup> Edition**. Volume 2  
General Editors: Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Valerie A. Smith

**ISBN:** 978-0-393-92370-4 Published by: W.W. Norton & Company

**It is VITAL that you purchase the THIRD edition of this text. Any older versions may be missing assigned readings and the pages are different.**

2. Tayari Jones' *Silver Sparrow* (this novel is part of the Big Read Project, and will be supplied courtesy of the English Department. Students will need to see the professor or department chair to receive this book).

**The Syllabus:** The syllabus should be used as an outline for the class. The instructor reserves the right to make changes at any time and without notice to course structure, dates, content, etc. The assignment of course readings is tentative and subject to change. It is the student's responsibility to consult the reading and assignment schedule for all assignments.

**Class Attendance Policy/Participation:** This is an online course, and all students must regularly log in and complete all assignments, quizzes, and essays by the due DATE and TIME listed on the syllabus/course schedule and on the assignment. For purposes of financial aid and enrollment, a student will be considered having attended an online class when the individual 1) participates in online discussions about academic matters; or 2) initiates contact with faculty to ask questions about subject studies; or 3) completes assignments; or 4) takes tests. Logging into an online course without active participation does **NOT** constitute attendance. The last date of attendance will be the date the student logged into the course and met one of the four criteria above. A student in an online course must follow the standard procedure for dropping the class.

**NO-SHOW status:** Students who have logged into an online course but have not actively participated will be reported as 'No Shows' according to the university's No-Show procedure.

**Classroom Demeanor:** You must show respect to the professor and students in this class always. By remaining enrolled in this course, you are agreeing to complete all assignments and participate in discussions, regardless of objections you might have on these grounds. All ethical perspectives and opinions will be respected by the instructor and by all class members always. Religious perspectives can be shared in discussion posts, but religious beliefs are not a replacement for intellectual exchange and scholarly research.

**Classroom Decorum Statement:** Students should behave in a manner that is conducive to a teaching/learning environment. Students who engage in behavior that is disruptive or obstructive to the teaching/learning environment will be subject to disciplinary sanctions outlined by the Code of Student Conduct. Disruptive/obstructive behavior is not limited to but may include the following: physical abuse, verbal abuse, threats, stalking, intimidation, harassment, hazing, possession of controlled substances, possession of alcoholic beverages, sleeping, etc. For online courses, this policy applies to all assignments, discussion board posts, messaging, or any other communication between and among students and with the professor.

**Academic Integrity Statement:**

Academic integrity is a commitment to the values of honesty, trustworthiness, fairness, respect, and responsibility in academia. Academic integrity is violated by any dishonest act that is committed in an academic context. Honesty and integrity are essential values of the Mississippi Valley State University's mission to pursue truth and knowledge. Academic excellence can be reached only with the cooperation and support of students. Students are expected therefore to accept responsibility for maintaining honesty and integrity in all acts inside and outside the classroom, studio or laboratory.

For a detailed description of sanctions and appeal procedures, consult Student Handbook pg.59. [https://www.mvsu.edu/sites/default/files/student\\_handbook](https://www.mvsu.edu/sites/default/files/student_handbook) .

**Cheating and Plagiarism Policy:**

A student who engages in intentional plagiarism (copying someone's paper or summaries from e-notes, cliffnotes, Wikipedia and the like) will receive an F for that assignment; no student will be accused of plagiarism without clear evidence. If the student engages in intentional plagiarism a second time, the student may fail the course.

**ALL drafts, essays, and response papers must be submitted to Turnitin.com. ALL students must register for the site. The directions are as follows:**

**Go to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com). Register a new account or sign in to an existing account.**

**CLASSID: 18554647**

**ENROLLMENT KEY: mvsu1234**

**Make-up Policy:** Assignments on the due date marked on the syllabus, unless otherwise noted. Late papers are accepted ONLY in the case of a documented medical or family emergency that prevents a student from submitting papers online (like a hospitalization). The instructor will determine what constitutes an emergency. ALL other late submissions will not be accepted, and a grade of zero will be assigned. NO PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DUE DATE without an ACCEPTED excuse from the University, AND the Instructor reserves the right to refuse. NO PAPERS SLID UNDER MY OFFICE DOOR WILL BE ACCEPTED. NO EMAILED PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED. ALL PAPERS MUST BE SUBMITTED THROUGH TURNITIN.COM. ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS! Computers crashing, lost flash drives, travel, undocumented illnesses without University excuses will NOT be accepted. An online course allows flexibility in how students submit work. It is YOUR responsibility to make sure that you complete all assignments by the due date. If you have an emergency arise that warrants the submission of a late paper, AFTER submitting an official excuse, the professor will give a specific time frame to complete assignments for credit. Failure to submit make up assignment by the specified time will result in a zero for the assignment. ONLY official university excuses will be accepted.

**The Writing Center and Lab:** Students should use the writing center to receive individual attention to improve essays in progress and the writing lab to develop grammar skills for correcting surface errors in their essays. While attending the Writing Center and Lab is not mandatory, it is strongly encouraged.

**Teaching/Learning Strategies:**

Two papers of 4-5 pages are required. Students will receive an assignment rubric for each of these papers. The papers must be written on a text covered in class this semester and should be in the form of a focused, well-organized, grammatically correct paper. This includes having an interesting introduction, relevant body paragraphs that incorporate brief, useful citations that support the thesis statement, and a satisfactory conclusion, prepared according to Modern Language Association, 8<sup>th</sup> edition guidelines. A draft is required several days before the paper is due. We will engage in peer review for the draft, and the professor will also give a written response to the draft. Students are also required to write two short “reading responses.” Reading responses are 1-2 pages. You will receive a rubric regarding the responses that lists expectations. Each response must follow the correct format, be an analysis (not a summary), and must include well-integrated quotations from the reading. A mid-term examination and a final examination are each required.

**Grading Criteria:**

Only grades of “A,” “B,” “C,” “D,” and “F” may be earned.

“I” grades will only be given under extreme circumstances and in accordance with university policy.

**Scale: 90-100 = A    80-89 = B    70-79 = C    60-69 = D    0-59 = F**

Estimated time per assignment

Weekly Discussion Board Posts	20%	45 mins each x 14 = 630 min
Long Paper Draft Submissions	10 %	120 mins each x 5= 600 min
Reading Responses	10%	180 mins each x 2 = 360 min
Long Paper #1	10%	240 min
Long Paper #2	10%	240 min
Quizzes	10%	60 mins each x 2= 120 min
Midterm	15%	120 min
Final	15%	120 min
	<b>Total: 100%</b>	<b>Total Minutes in online course: 2,430 minutes</b>

**Disabilities Statement:**

Mississippi Valley State University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for students with a documented disability. If you feel you are eligible to receive accommodations for a covered disability (medical, physical, psychiatric, learning, vision, hearing, etc.) and would like to request it for this course, you must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) program administered by University College. It is recommended that you visit the Disabilities Office located inside the EMAP Computer Lab in the Technical Education (IT) Building to register for the program at the beginning of each semester. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact Mr. Billy Benson, Jr. via phone or email at 662-254-3005 or [billy.benson@mvsu.edu](mailto:billy.benson@mvsu.edu).

\*this course schedule is tentative and scheduled to change. Please check the messages and announcements FREQUENTLY.

**COURSE SCHEDULE AND READING OUTLINE:**

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>READINGS AND ASSIGMENTS</b>
1	8/20-8/24 Intro to course <b>Read</b> “Vernacular Tradition Part 2” p. 3-27 <b>Gospel, Songs of Social Change, and Jazz</b> <b>Discussion Board Post 1 (45 mins) DUE: by 11:59PM on 8/24</b>
2	8/27-8/31 <b>Read: Vernacular Tradition contd. Pgs 27-56</b> <b>Rhythm and Blues and Hip Hop</b> <b>Discussion Board Post 2 (45 mins) DUE: by 11:59PM on 8/31</b>
3	9/3-9/7 UNIT 2 Realism, Naturalism, Modernism <b>Read:</b> Realism, Naturalism, Modernism pgs. 93-107 <b>Read:</b> Richard Wright bio and “Blueprint for Negro Writing” pgs. 119-132 <b>Discussion Board Post 3 (45 mins) due by 11:59PM on 9/7</b> <b>Short response #1 due (120 mins) to TURNITIN.COM by 11:59pm on 9/10</b>
4	9/10-9/14 <b>Read:</b> Ann Petry bio and “The Street” excerpt pgs. 167-179 <b>Read:</b> Ralph Ellison bio pg 243-248 <b>Read:</b> Invisible Man excerpts: “Prologue,” Chapter 1 “Battle Royal”, and “Epilogue” pgs. 258-279 <b>Discussion Board Post 4 (45 mins) due by 11:59 on 9/14</b> <b>QUIZ #1 (45 mins) due by 11:59 pm on 9/15</b>
5	9/17-9/21 <b>Read:</b> Margaret Walker bio and “For My People,” “Poppa Chicken,” “For Malcolm X,” “Prophets for a New Day” pgs 318-324 <b>Read:</b> Gwendolyn Brooks bio “kitchenette building” “the mother” “a song in the front yard” “Sadie and Maud” “the vacant lot” “the preacher: ruminates behind the sermon” “The Rites for Cousin VI” “We Real Cool” “Malcolm X” “Riot” Pgs 318-340 <b>Discussion Board Post 5 (45 mins) due by 11:59 on 9/21</b>
6	9/24-9/28 UNIT 3 The Black Arts Era <b>Read:</b> The Black Arts Era pgs 533-561 <b>Read:</b> Malcolm X bio pgs. 565-566 “The Ballot or the Bullet” pg 79-90 <b>Read:</b> Martin Luther King, Jr. bio and “Letter from Birmingham Jail” pgs. “592-607 <b>Discussion Board Post 6 (45 mins) due by 11:59 pm on 9/28</b> <b>Draft of paper #1 (120 mins) Due to Turnitin.com by 11:59pm on 9/29</b>
7	10/1-10/5 Midterm Week <b>Read:</b> Amiri Baraka bio pgs 660-665 “ <b>The Revolutionary Theatre</b> ” 688-691

	<p>Discussion Board Post 7 (45 mins) due by 11:59 on 10/5</p> <p><b>Midterm Essay Exam (120 mins) due by 11:59PM on 10/6</b></p>
8	<p>10/8-10/12</p> <p><b>Read:</b> Sonia Sanchez bio and excerpted poems pgs 708-725</p> <p>Discussion Board Post 8 (45 mins) due by 11:59 PM on 10/12</p> <p><b>Paper #1 due (240 mins) due to Turnitin.com by at 11:59pm on 10/13</b></p>
9	<p>10/15-10/19 Unit 4 The Contemporary Period</p> <p><b>Read:</b> The Contemporary Period pgs 913-929</p> <p><b>Read:</b> Maya Angelou bio and “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings” excerpt pg 944-957</p> <p>Discussion Board Post 9 (45 mins) due by 11:59 PM on 10/19</p>
10	<p>10/22-10/26</p> <p><b>Read:</b> Toni Morrison bio 985-989</p> <p>“Rootedness: The Ancestor as Foundation” pgs. 1067-1071</p> <p><b>Read:</b> Alice Walker bio “In Search of Our Mothers’ Gardens” and “Everyday Use” pgs. 1176-1194</p> <p>Discussion Board Post 10 (45 mins) due by 11:59 on 10/26</p>
11	<p>10/29-11/2</p> <p><b>Read:</b> Tayari Jones’ <i>Silver Sparrow</i> Chapters 1-7 pgs. 1-76</p> <p>Discussion Board Post 11 (45 mins) due by 11:59 on 11/2</p> <p><b>Short response #2 due (120 mins) due to Turnitin.com at 11:59 PM on 11/3</b></p>
12	<p>11/5-11/9</p> <p><b>Read:</b> Tayari Jones’ <i>Silver Sparrow</i> Chapters 8-11 pgs. 77-</p> <p>Discussion Board Post 12 (45 mins) due by 11:59 PM on 11/9</p> <p><b>QUIZ #2 (45 mins) due by 11:59PM on 11/10</b></p>
13	<p>11/12-11/16</p> <p><b>Read:</b> Tayari Jones’ <i>Silver Sparrow</i> Chapters 12-17</p> <p>Discussion Board Post 13 (45 mins) due by 11:59 on 11/16</p> <p><b>Draft of paper #2 due (120 mins) due to Turnitin.com by at 11:59PM on 11/17</b></p>
14	<p>11/19-11/23 FALL BREAK AND THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY</p>
15	<p>11/26-11/30</p> <p><b>Read:</b> Finish Tayari Jones’ <i>Silver Sparrow</i> pgs. 243-340 Chapters 18-conclusion</p> <p>Discussion Board Post 14 (45 mins) due by 11:59 on 11/30</p> <p><b>Final Draft of paper #2 due (120 mins) due to Turnitin.com by at 11:59PM on 12/1</b></p>
16	<p>12/3-12/7 FINAL EXAM WEEK</p> <p><b>Final Exam is DUE: by 11:59PM on</b></p>

**\*This date is TENTATIVE. If any adjustments are to be made, you will be notified WELL in advance.**

**TENTATIVE Final Exam Date: Final Exam is DUE by 11:59PM  
On (120 mins)**

