

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
- www.unine.ch/lettres

Seminar 4: Modern and Contemporary Literature : African-American Literature (2AN1435)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Pilier B A - langue et littérature anglaises	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	6
Pilier principal B A - langue et littérature anglaises	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	6
Pilier secondaire B A - langue et littérature anglaises	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	6

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Printemps

Equipe enseignante

Prof. Patrick Vincent

Contenu

This seminar is a survey of African-American literature from the early Twentieth Century onwards, with special attention to the questions of gender, race, and class. What are the legacies of slavery and segregation on African-American identity? How have writers used various literary genres as a means to question what it means to be Black (and white) in America and to further social justice? What is the place of these writers in the American literary canon? We will look in particular at different ways in which race has been historically constructed, and its effect on social relations. Texts have been selected because of their critical and social importance as well as their appropriateness to secondary-school teaching. Participants will be asked to present a primary text (e.g. political speech, essay) or a piece of secondary criticism related to the reading. The aim of the course is to help students better understand the historical situation of African Americans, and to appreciate their huge contribution to the literature and culture of the United States.

Forme de l'évaluation

Regular participation, 15-minute oral presentation on a primary or secondary text (20%), and two essays (+-1500 words each) (80%).

Because this is a seminar, attendance and reading assignments are mandatory. Please e-mail the instructor ahead if you cannot attend a class.

Covid-16 guidelines: the class will be taught online.

Modalités de rattrapage

Students who fail one or the other of the two essays have one opportunity to revise it. Rewrites should be returned before the beginning of the next semester.

Documentation

Nella Larsen, *Passing*
Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes were Watching God*
Toni Morrison, *The Bluest Eye*

Books will be available for purchase at Payot Neuchâtel.
Other texts will be made available on the Moodle course platform.

Pré-requis

First-year courses are required; survey of American literature is recommended.

Forme de l'enseignement

Seminar discussion

Objectifs d'apprentissage

Au terme de la formation l'étudiant-e doit être capable de :

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Compétences transférables

- Manage a project
- Generate new ideas (creativity)
- Carry out a critical analysis
- Discuss complex issues