

Module Information

2022.01, Approved

Summary Information

Module Code	6130ENGL
Formal Module Title	Black Lives in American Literature
Owning School	Humanities and Social Science
Career	Undergraduate
Credits	20
Academic level	FHEQ Level 6
Grading Schema	40

Teaching Responsibility

LJMU Schools involved in Delivery
Humanities and Social Science

Learning Methods

Learning Method Type	Hours
Lecture	11
Seminar	22
Tutorial	2

Module Offering(s)

Display Name	Location	Start Month	Duration Number Duration Unit
JAN-MTP	MTP	January	12 Weeks

Aims and Outcomes

Aims	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To consider what it means to speak of 'black lives' in America – how racial identities are produced and expressed, through and beyond the protesting of racial injustices 2. To explore different traditions of writing by African Americans from the twentieth century to the present, from fiction to poetry, essays and autobiography 3. To understand the conditions behind a recent flourishing in black culture, incorporating literature, film, music and fine art.
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After completing the module the student should be able to:

Learning Outcomes

Code	Number	Description
MLO1	1	Demonstrate an awareness of key concepts in the theory and politics of race in America;
MLO2	2	Conduct an analysis of given literary texts that situates them in relation to African American traditions and engages with current critical approaches;
MLO3	3	Give evidence of initiative in researching contemporary debates about race and black culture

Module Content

Outline Syllabus	<p>This module explores a range of writing by and about African Americans from the mid-twentieth century to the present. Using the recent discourse of 'black lives' as an entry point, it considers the way writers and artists have contested racial injustices, articulated new identities, identified grounds for solidarity and alliance, and critiqued cultural practices that perpetuate suffering. It traces a shift from the cultural politics of the post-war, post-Civil Rights moment to a contemporary flourishing of creative activity that Ibram Kendi has called a 'third renaissance' of black culture.</p> <p>Indicative primary texts: James Baldwin, <i>The Fire Next Time</i> (1961) Paul Beatty, <i>The Sellout</i> (2016) Octavia Butler, <i>Parable of the Sower</i> (1993) Ta Nehisi Coates, <i>Between the World and Me</i> (2015) Claudia Rankine, <i>Citizen: An American Lyric</i> (2014) Nafissa Thompson-Spires, <i>Heads of the Colored People</i> (2019) Jesmyn Ward, <i>The Fire This Time</i> (2016)</p> <p>Indicative secondary reading: Jacqueline Bobo, <i>The Black Studies Reader</i> (2004) Kimberle Crenshaw et al., <i>Critical Race Theory: The Key Writings</i> (1996) Madhu Dubey, 'Speculative Fictions of Slavery' <i>American Literature</i> (2010) 82/4 779–805 Toni Morrison, <i>Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and the literary Imagination</i> (1992) Winston Napier, <i>African American Literary Theory: A Reader</i> (2000) Kenneth Warren, <i>What Was African American Literature?</i> (2012) <i>American Literary History</i> 29.4 (Winter 2017) special issue 'What is Twenty-First-Century African American Literature?'</p>
Module Overview	
Additional Information	<p>This module is intended to speak closely to our Programme Learning Objective relating to the teaching of diversity and race. In the module there will be significant aspects of our de-colonized curriculum, including the study of primary and secondary texts by authors from BAME backgrounds. The module addresses the construction of racial identities and the manifestations of racism in the United States. It has an emphasis on black literary traditions and retains a hybrid theoretical / literary approach.</p>

Assessments

Assignment Category	Assessment Name	Weight	Exam/Test Length (hours)	Module Learning Outcome Mapping
Essay	mid term test	40	0	MLO1
Essay	2500 word essay	60	0	MLO1, MLO2, MLO3

Module Contacts

Module Leader

Contact Name	Applies to all offerings	Offerings
Colin Harrison	Yes	N/A

Partner Module Team

Contact Name	Applies to all offerings	Offerings
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