

EDU-949: African American Plays

Independent Study Online Course Syllabus

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Number of Graduate Semester Units: 3 units

Target Audience: 9th-14th grade teachers

Course Access: <https://connect.fresno.edu>

Course Description

This class will guide high school teachers through a survey of plays by African Americans to gain an understanding and empathy for African American culture. These texts will expose the reader to an array of experiences within the African American culture, including nuances such as racism within the culture, identity, self-image, and generational differences. Students will create lesson plans to teach three plays, make correlations between other media and the assigned texts, and reflect on their experience in relating to students and staff of a culture different than their own. We will also walk through creating lesson plans for introducing your students to aspects of these texts that are relevant to your area of teaching.

Note: Required books must be acquired separately.

Required Texts and Course Materials:

Students are required to select *three* of the following *six* plays to read for class assignments.

- Fuller, Charles. (1982). *A Soldier's Play*. Hill and Wang. ISBN 978-0374521486
<https://www.amazon.com/Soldiers-Play-Dramabook/dp/0374521484>
- Hansberry, L., & Nemiroff, R. (1988). *A Raisin in the Sun*. New York: Signet/NAL. ISBN 978-0679755333
<https://www.amazon.com/Raisin-Sun-Lorraine-Hansberry/dp/0679755330>
- Smith, Anna Deavere. (1993). *Fires in the Mirror*. Anchor Books. New York. ISBN 978-0385470148
<https://www.amazon.com/Fires-Mirror-Anna-Deavere-Smith/dp/0385470142>
- Wilson, August. (1986). *Fences*. Penguin Books. New York. ISBN 978-0452264014
<https://www.amazon.com/Fences-August-Wilson/dp/0452264014>
- Wilson, August. (1990). *The Piano Lesson*. Samuel French, Inc. Dramatist Play Service, Inc. ISBN 9780573704741. <https://www.samuelfrench.com/s/7625/august-wilsons-the-piano-lesson>
- Wolfe, George C. (1986). *The Colored Museum*. Dramatist Play Service, Inc. ISBN 9780822224341
<https://www.amazon.com/Colored-Museum-George-C-Wolfe/dp/0822224348>

Note: Students are responsible for purchasing their own textbook, analyzing the content, and applying what they learned to the course assignments. You are welcome to purchase used, ebook, or new versions to save money. You can order the book directly from the publisher or from one of several discount aggregators.

Online Resources: Relevant online resources that support the course content and encourage further investigation will be available throughout the course assignments. Active hyperlinks are utilized throughout the course and will link to the appropriate information when clicked. These include videos, podcasts, worksheets, online activities, journal articles and other resources.

Canvas: This course will be delivered totally online. Canvas is a web-based learning management system (LMS) that provides students access to online resources, documents, videos, assignments, quizzes, forums, etc. Canvas is easy to learn and has a user-friendly interface.

Course Dates

Self-paced; students may enroll at any time and take up to one year, from the date of registration, to complete assignments. Students may complete assignments in no less than three weeks for a 3-unit course (one week per unit).

National Standards Addressed in This Course

National Common Core Arts Standards (NCCAS) nationalartsstandards.org

Responding/Reflect:

- TH:Re7.1.I. Respond to what is seen, felt, and heard in a drama/theatre work to develop criteria for artistic choices.

Responding/Interpret:

- TH:Re8.1.II. Apply concepts from a drama/theatre work for personal realization about cultural perspectives and understanding.
- TH:Re8.1.III. Use new understandings of cultures and contexts to shape personal responses to drama/theatre work.
- TH:Re9.1.II. Analyze and assess a drama/theatre work by connecting it to art forms, history, culture, and other disciplines using supporting evidence and criteria.
- TH:Re9.1.III. Research and synthesize cultural and historical information related to a drama/theatre work to support or evaluate artistic choices. Compare and debate the connection between a drama/theatre work and contemporary issues that may impact audiences.

Connecting/Empathize

- TH:Cn10.1.I. Investigate how cultural perspectives, community ideas and personal beliefs impact a drama/theatre work.

Common Core English Language Arts Standards; Reading Literature

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.2
 - Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.1

- Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.

Continuing Education Program Student Learning Outcomes

CE 1	Demonstrate proficient written communication by articulating a clear focus, synthesizing arguments, and utilizing standard formats in order to inform and persuade others, and present information applicable to targeted use.
CE 2	Demonstrate comprehension of content-specific knowledge and the ability to apply it in theoretical, personal, professional, or societal contexts.
CE 3	Reflect on their personal and professional growth and provide evidence of how such reflection is utilized to manage personal and professional improvement.
CE 4	Apply critical thinking competencies by generating probing questions, recognizing underlying assumptions, interpreting and evaluating relevant information, and applying their understandings to the professional setting.
CE 5	Reflect on values that inspire high standards of professional and ethical behavior as they pursue excellence in applying new learning to their chosen field.
CE 6	Identify information needed in order to fully understand a topic or task, organize that information, identify the best sources of information for a given enquiry, locate and critically evaluate sources, and accurately and effectively share that information.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for This Course

Student Learning Outcomes for This Course By the end of this course student will be able to:	National Standards Addressed in This Course*	Continuing Education Program Student Learning Outcomes Addressed**
1. Read and respond to a theatre work including personal realization about cultural perspectives and understanding.	TH:Re7.1.I., TH:Re7.1.II., TH:Cn10.1.I., CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.2	CE 1, 2, 4, 5, 6
2. Compare a body of work in different mediums.	NBPTS 1, 3, 4	CE 4
3. Research other mediums of art and compare them to the required texts.	TH:Re9.1.III TH:Re9.1.II.	CE 1, CE 2, CE 4, CE 6
4. Develop lesson plans with the required texts that incorporate Common Core NCCAS Theatre and English Language Arts standards.	TH:Re7.1.I., TH:Re7.1.II., TH:Re7.1.III, TH:Re9.1.I. TH:Re9.1.III. TH:Cn10.1.I.	CE 2, CE 4, CE 6

5. Engage in collaboration with other teachers to share ideas and discuss elements of best practices.		CE 6
6. Evaluate his/her own current method of addressing diversity in the classroom or staff for making positive changes.		CE 3, 4, 5

* Please refer to the section on **National Standards Addressed in This Course**

** Please refer to the section on **Continuing Education Program Student Learning Outcomes**

Topics, Assignments, and Activities

Module Title	Module Assignments and Activities	Points Possible
Welcome Module	● Introduction video ● Course Syllabus ● Introduce Yourself Forum	
Module 1 – Setting the Stage	● 1.1 Read/respond “How to Teach Plays” PDF ● 1.2 Watch/respond Introduction to Script Analysis ● 1.3 Listen/respond to Liturgists Podcast	10 pts 10 pts 10 pts
Module 2 – Play #1	● 2.1 Read Play #1, Written Response ● 2.2 Create Lesson Plan ● 2.3 Write Character Analysis ● 2.4 Choice: Comparative Essay or Creative Option ● 2.5 Forum	5 pts 30 pts 15 pts 15 pts 5 pts
Module 3 – Play #2	● 3.1 Read Play #1, Written Response ● 3.2 Create Lesson Plan ● 3.3 Write Character Analysis ● 3.4 Choice: Comparative Essay or Creative Option ● 3.5 Forum	5 pts 30 pts 15 pts 15 pts 5 pts
Module 4 – Play #3	● 4.1 Read Play #1, Written Response ● 4.2 Create Lesson Plan ● 4.3 Write Character Analysis ● 4.4 Choice: Comparative Essay or Creative Option ● 4.5 Forum	5 pts 30 pts 15 pts 15 pts 5 pts
Module 5 –	● 5.1 Watch film version of play and respond ● 5.2 Create and administer a survey ● 5.3 Create action plan for future interactions with those of a different culture than your own	20 pts 20 pts 20 pts

Course Wrap-up – Grading and Evaluation	• Final Reflection Forum • Course Evaluation • Course Completion Checklist • Grade Request / Transcript Request	
	TOTAL POINTS	300 points

Grading Policies, Rubrics, and Requirements for Assignments

Grading Policies

- Assignments will be graded per criteria presented in the course rubrics.
- A = 90-100% and B = 80-89%, (anything below 80% will not receive credit.)
- The discernment between an A or a B letter grade is at the discretion of the instructor based on the quality of work submitted (see course rubrics).
- Coursework falling below a B grade will be returned with further instructions.
- All assignments must be completed to receive a grade and are expected to reflect the quality that teacher-training institutions require of professional educators. If completed assignments do not meet this standard, students will be notified with further instructions from the instructor.

Grading Rubrics

Grade	Percent	Description	Rubric
A	90-100%	Excellent	Meets all course/assignment requirements, significant evidence of subject mastery – excellent demonstration of graduate level professional development scholarship.
B	80-89%	Very good	Adequately meets the criteria for all course/assignment requirements - demonstrates subject competency and very good graduate level professional development scholarship.
NC	Below 80%	Unacceptable	Does not meet the minimum criteria for all course/assignment requirements and demonstrated little, if any, evidence of acceptable graduate level professional development scholarship.

Writing Requirements

- **Superior:** Writing is clear, succinct, and reflects graduate level expectations. Clearly addresses all parts of the writing task. Maintains a consistent point of view and organizational structure. Include relevant facts, details, and explanations.
- **Standard:** Writing is acceptable with very few mistakes in grammar and spelling. Addresses most parts of the writing task. Maintains a mostly consistent point of view and organizational structure. Include mostly relevant facts, details, and explanations.

- **Sub-standard:** Writing contains noticeable mistakes in grammar and spelling. Does not address all parts of the writing task. Lacks a consistent point of view and organization structure. May include marginally relevant facts, details, and explanations.

Lesson Plan Requirements

- **Superior:** Instructional goals and objectives clearly stated. Instructional strategies appropriate for learning outcome(s). Method for assessing student learning and evaluating instruction is clearly delineated and authentic. All materials necessary for student and teacher to complete lesson clearly listed.
- **Standard:** Instructional goals and objectives are stated but are not easy to understand. Some instructional strategies are appropriate for learning outcome(s). Method for assessing student learning and evaluating instruction is present. Most materials necessary for student and teacher to complete lesson are listed.
- **Sub-standard:** Instructional goals and objectives are not stated. Learners cannot tell what is expected of them. Instructional strategies are missing or strategies used are inappropriate. Method for assessing student learning and evaluating instruction is missing. Materials necessary for student and teacher to complete lesson are missing.

Discussion Forum Requirements

- **Superior:** Response was at least 1 page (3 fully developed paragraphs) in length. Thoroughly answered all the posed questions, followed all the assignment directions, proper grammar and no spelling errors. Language is clear, concise, and easy to understand. Uses terminology appropriately and is logically organized.
- **Standard:** Response was ½ to 1 page in length (2-3 fully developed paragraphs). Answered all the questions but did not provide an in-depth analysis, followed most of the assignment directions, proper grammar and no spelling errors. Language is comprehensible, but there a few passages that are difficult to understand. The organization is generally good.
- **Sub-standard:** Response was less than ½ page in length (1 paragraph). Did not answer all the required questions and/or statements or responses were superficial, vague, or unclear, did not follow the assignment directions, many grammar and spelling errors. Is adequately written, but may use some terms incorrectly; may need to be read two or more times to be understood.

Instructor/Student Contact Information

Throughout the course participants will be communicating with the instructor and their classmates on a regular basis using asynchronous discussion forums. A virtual office is utilized for class questions and students are provided with instructor contact information in the event they want to make email or phone contact. In addition, students are encouraged to email or phone the instructor at any time. Students will also receive feedback on the required assignments as they are submitted.

Discussion Forums

Participation is an important expectation of this course and all online courses. Online discussions promote reflection and analysis while allowing students to appreciate and evaluate positions that others express. While students may not be engaging with the same students throughout this course they will be expected to offer comments, questions, and replies to the discussion question whenever possible. The faculty role in the discussion forum is that of an observer and facilitator.

Coursework Hours

Based on the Carnegie Unit standard, a unit of graduate credit measures academic credit based on the number of hours the student is engaged in learning. This includes all time spent on the course: reading the textbook, watching videos, listening to audio lessons, researching topics, writing papers, creating projects, developing lesson plans, posting to discussion boards, etc. Coursework offered for FPU Continuing Education graduate credit adheres to 45 hours per semester unit for the 900-level courses. Therefore, a student will spend approximately 135 hours on a typical 3-unit course.

Services for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities are eligible for reasonable accommodations in their academic work in all classes. In order to receive assistance, the student with a disability must provide the Academic Support Center with documentation, which describes the specific disability. The documentation must be from a qualified professional in the area of the disability (i.e. psychologist, physician or educational diagnostician). Once documentation is on file, arrangements for reasonable accommodations can be made. For more information and for downloadable forms, please go to <https://www.fresno.edu/departments/disability-access-education>.

Plagiarism and Academic Honesty

All people participating in the educational process at Fresno Pacific University are expected to pursue honesty and integrity in all aspects of their academic work. Academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will be handled per the procedures set forth in the Fresno Pacific University Catalogue - <https://www.fresno.edu/students/registrars-office/academic-catalogs>

Technology Requirements

To successfully complete the course requirements, course participants will need Internet access, can send and receive email, know how to manage simple files in a word processing program, and have a basic understanding of the Internet. Please remember that the instructor is not able to offer technical support. If you need technical support, please contact your Internet Service Provider.

Getting Help with Canvas: If you need help with Canvas, please contact the FPU Help Desk by phone: (559) 453-3410 or email: helpdesk@fresno.edu. Help is available Mon-Fri 8:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Final Course Grade and Transcripts

When all work for the course has been completed, students will need to request their final grade by accessing the form at ce.fresno.edu/grade-request. Once the instructor receives the request and posts their final grade, students will receive an email communication from the University. Please allow at least two weeks for the final grade to be posted before you order your transcripts online.

University Policies and Procedures

Students are responsible for becoming familiar with the information presented in the Academic Catalog and for knowing and observing all policies and procedures related to their participation in the university community. A summary of university policies may be found on the university website at <https://www.fresno.edu/departments/registrars-office/academic-catalogs>.

Fresno Pacific University Student Learning Outcomes

Student Learning Outcomes Oral Communication: Students will *exhibit* clear, engaging, and confident oral communication – in both individual and group settings – and will critically *evaluate* content and delivery components.

Written Communication: Students will *demonstrate* proficient written communication by *articulating* a clear focus, *synthesizing* arguments, and utilizing standard formats in order to *inform* and *persuade* others.

Content Knowledge: Students will *demonstrate* comprehension of content-specific knowledge and the ability to apply it in theoretical, personal, professional, or societal contexts.

Reflection: Students will *reflect* on their personal and professional growth and *provide evidence* of how such reflection is utilized to manage personal and vocational improvement.

Critical Thinking: Students will *apply* critical thinking competencies by *generating* probing questions, *recognizing* underlying assumptions, *interpreting* and *evaluating* relevant information, and *applying* their understandings to new situations.

Moral Reasoning: Students will *identify* and *apply* moral reasoning and ethical decision-making skills, and *articulate* the norms and principles underlying a Christian world-view.

Service: Students will *demonstrate* service and reconciliation as a way of leadership.

Cultural and Global Perspective: Students will *identify* personal, cultural, and global perspectives and will employ these perspectives to *evaluate* complex systems.

Quantitative Reasoning: Students will accurately *compute* calculations and symbolic operations and *explain* their use in a field of study.

Information Literacy: Students will *identify* information needed in order to fully understand a topic or task, *explain* how that information is organized, *identify* the best sources of information for a given enquiry, *locate* and critically *evaluate* sources, and accurately and effectively *share* that information.