

**African American Literature
Spring Semester 2021**

Course Name:	English 31
Instructor's Name:	Michael Hale
Office Hours & Location:	1655 Emeritus (New Office) Check here for hours https://profiles.santarosa.edu/michael-hale
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Catalog Description:	Reading, discussion and writing about significant African-American writers and their works from slave period to present. The course uses both a thematic and historical approach to African-American literature." You can find the entire Course Outline of Record here .

Textbooks

All of the texts for this course will be free electronic resources distributed on Canvas.

Additional Requirements

Access to the Internet and a computer that can read PDF documents and open and save documents in Microsoft Word, Google Doc, or PDF format. (If you do not have a computer at home or if you have an old computer, every computer on campus will have these basic applications. Also, SRJC can provide you a loner laptop in many cases).

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ENGLISH 31 ASSIGNMENT CALENDAR AND GRADING: (These assignments are subject to change.)

Assignment	Due Date	Points
UNIT 1: BLACK FREEDOM		
Welcome Survey	Feb 1 by 11:59pm	5
Week 2: Video and Progress Report	Feb 14 by 11:59pm	5
Black Freedom Discussion Board	Feb 17 by 11:59pm	20
Unit 1: Reading Assignments	Feb 21 by 11:59pm	0
Week 3: Video and Progress Report	Feb 21 by 11:59pm	5
Journal 1	Feb 28 by 11:59pm	50
Week 4: Video and Progress Report	Feb 28 by 11:59pm	5
UNIT 2: BLACK SORROW		
Week 5: Video and Progress Report	Mar 7 by 11:59pm	5
Week 6: Video and Progress Report	Mar 14 by 11:59pm	5
Black Sorrow Discussion Board	Mar 17 by 11:59pm	20
Journal 2	Mar 21 by 11:59pm	50
Presentation 1	Mar 21 by 11:59pm	100
Mid-Term	Mar 21 by 11:59pm	50
Week 7: Video and Progress Report	Mar 21 by 11:59pm	5
Social Movement Essay	Mar 24 by 11:59pm	100
UNIT 3: BLACK LOVE		
Week 8: Video and Progress Report	Mar 28 by 11:59pm	5
Week 9: Video and Progress Report	Apr 4 by 11:59pm	5
Black Love Discussion Board	Apr 7 by 11:59pm	20
Journal 3	Apr 11 by 11:59pm	50
Week 10: Video and Progress Report	Apr 11 by 11:59pm	5
UNIT 4: BLACK FUTURES		
Week 11: Video and Progress Report	Apr 18 by 11:59pm	5
Week 12: Video and Progress Report	Apr 25 by 11:59pm	5
Black Futures Discussion Board	Apr 28 by 11:59pm	20
Journal 4	May 2 by 11:59pm	50
Week 13: Video and Progress Report	May 2 by 11:59pm	5
FINAL ASSIGNMENTS		
Presentation 2	May 9 by 11:59pm	100
Research Essay	May 9 by 11:59pm	200
Week 14: Video and Progress Report	May 9 by 11:59pm	5
Final Exam	May 16 by 11:59pm	100
	Total Points	1000

Grading Scale
1000-900 = A
800-899 = B
700-799 = C
600-699 = D
Less than 599 = F

SPECIFIC COURSE POLICES:

The guiding principle of this class is **RESPECT!** I promise to respect you as individuals and as a class. I require that you respect your colleagues/peers and the classroom learning environment.

Participation and Attendance: This course will be **synchronous, with required meetings Monday and Wednesday from 10-11:30am facilitated on Zoom.** Because of the unpredictable nature of the interlocking set of crises we face (from a global pandemic to an economic crisis to a political crisis to all of the normal everyday difficulties young people face), I will focus on being flexible, tolerant, and kind this semester. As long as you stay connected with me through email, I will not drop you if you need to miss a few classes or if you need an extension on a few assignments.

Communication: We will use email and the class website (Canvas) to communicate outside of class. It is essential that you monitor Canvas and email often. I will assume that if it is on the website or your email, you know about it. You download some of your reading assignments, and you submit all your written assignments via the class website. I will respond to your emails within 24 hours Monday to Friday. I generally do not respond to emails on the weekend.

Document Format: Please use [Modern Language Association \(MLA\) document design](#) and citation for all assignments.

Academic Honesty and Classroom Conduct: Plagiarism or academic dishonesty of any type will not be tolerated. For further information, please review SRJC's standards of student conduct, on the web, at <https://student-conduct.santarosa.edu/>

ADDITIONAL POLICIES:

1. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE** for understanding what each assignment is asking you to accomplish, when the assignment is due, and where to upload it. If you do not understand an assignment or when it is due, you need to ask a question during our zoom meeting or email me ASAP. Please remember, I am here to help you. Unlike High School or your job, attending the professor's office hour is a good thing. Some of my most fond memories of college were visiting professor's office hours.

2. **Late assignments.** Because of the unpredictable nature of the interlocking set of crises we face (from a global pandemic to an economic crisis to a political crisis to all the normal everyday difficulties young people face), I will focus on **being flexible, tolerant, and kind this semester.** As long as you stay connected with me through email, I will have no problem granting extensions on assignments.

3. **All of your grades** will be posted on CANVAS. For essay assignments, unless otherwise notified, I will update your grade 7-14 days after an assignment is due. **If I grant you an extension on your assignment, it will take me longer to update your grade.** It is your responsibility to check your grades on CANVAS, and let me know ASAP if I have not posted your grade by mistake, or if I have posted an incorrect grade.

4. There will be several opportunities for **Extra Credit.** These opportunities are campus events or local activities announced in class. Extra credit cannot exceed 30 points. Most extra credit assignments are worth 10 points. To submit extra credit, write a 300-500 word *evaluation* of the event or activity you attended. Email it to me with the

subject line “Extra Credit.” I grade the extra credit at the end of the semester only if it will change your grade. In other words, extra credit will not show up in the grade book, so do not look for it. Lastly, extra credit is due at the end of week 13. **Do not** ask if you can submit extra credit at the very end of the semester.

5. In this class, we will be reading essays and **discussing themes that are at times controversial**. It is fine to disagree. In fact, it is encouraged to discuss our disagreements openly and honestly, but please be respectful of each other and the professor. In addition, please be aware that it is very easy to misunderstand the intention of an online post. Things that would otherwise be harmless, seem aggressive or hurtful online. Learning can only take place if people feel safe to discuss their disagreements and ask questions without abuse.

6. Lastly, racist, sexist, homophobic, and/or a repeated pattern of excessive vulgar language or distracting disruptions **WILL NOT** be tolerated. After a warning, you will be suspended from class and referred to a disciplinary committee. For further information, please review SRJC’s standards of student conduct, on the web, at <https://student-conduct.santarosa.edu/>

SUPPORT SERVICES

The Writing Center http://www.santarosa.edu/english/writing_center.html

The English Department Writing Centers on the Santa Rosa and Petaluma campuses provide free writing tutorial services and computer/printer use to all registered SRJC students. Tutorial assistance is provided by English department faculty and instructional assistants. Instructors work with students on the full range of the elements of composition, including brainstorming, thesis development, essay organization, paragraphing, topic sentences, style, clarity, coherence, MLA documentation format, research techniques, mechanics, grammar and punctuation.
Santa Rosa Campus Writing Lab: 1629 Emeritus Hall, (707) 521- 7836

Welcome Center <https://welcome.santarosa.edu/>

Drop by any time for help with the following services: SRJC Application, Course Registration, Assistance with Financial Aid and Application and Forms, Campus Technology Assistance

The Doyle Library <http://www.santarosa.edu/library/>
You can drop-in, chat, phone, or email a librarian for help with your research

Student Resource Center <https://resources.santarosa.edu/> Referrals, information, listings, for Food, Housing, Transportation, School Supplies, Shower Kits, Fire Relief Information and Applications, tips for lowering your everyday costs and so much more.

Disability Resources Services <http://online.santarosa.edu/presentation/page/?35762> Tel: (707) 527-4278

Mental Health Services: (707) 527-4445 RACE BUILDING, ROOM 4017

Nurse Practitioner: (707) 527-4445 RACE BUILDING, ROOM 4017

Dream Center <https://dream.santarosa.edu/> (707) 521-7947 PLOVER HALL

EOPS (707) 527-4383 Bertolini Student Services Center 2nd Floor, Room 4722
<https://eops.santarosa.edu/>

Scholarships <https://scholarships.santarosa.edu/>

Canvas Help (844) 303-0344 24/7 hotline
<https://de.santarosa.edu/content/student-help-canvas>