

ENG 326/AFR 258
African American Lit & Law
10:00-11:30
H-L 311

Professor Chakkalaka
Office: 213 Adams Hall
Office Hours: Wednesday 10-12, or by appointment
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x5150

Course description:

The constitution of an African American legal identity exerts a tremendous influence on the idea of American culture and democracy. Yet, it is a concept that is not legible through conventional legal sources. This course turns to fictional and creative non-fictional sources to grasp the literary form and political influence of African American legal identity

Texts:

William Wells Brown, *Narrative of William Wells Brown*
Frederick Douglass, *My Bondage and My Freedom*
Frank Webb, *The Garies and Their Friends*
Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Dred*
Albion Tourgee, *Bricks without Straw*
Charles Chesnut, *Marrow of Tradition*
Mark Twain, *Pudden'head Wilson*
Patricia Williams, *Alchemy of Race and Rights*
Clarence Thomas, *My Grandfather's Son*

Assignments:

4 short response papers, 3-5 pages (Each worth 10% of your final grade)
Outline for final paper (10%)
Final Paper (25%) 8-10 pages
Participation (25%) discussion and attendance

**African American Lit & Law
Schedule of Classes**

DATE	
January 25	Introduction – Slave Law and Douglass (“To talk lawyerlike about the law”)
January 27	Douglass, <i>My Bondage and My Freedom</i> , (ch. I-XIII)
February 1	Douglass, <i>My Bondage and My Freedom</i> , (ch.XIV –XX)
February 3	Twain, <i>Pudd’nhead Wilson</i> , (“A Whisper to the Reader” – ch. Viii)
February 8	<i>Pudd’nhead Wilson</i> (ch. IX-conclusion) First Paper Due
February 9	----- Afternoon Public lecture by Jeff Clymer, “Family Money: Laws Affecting Interracial Sexuality and Wealth Distribution in the Nineteenth Century,” 4:30 pm in Mass Hall (3rd floor). Students are strongly encouraged to attend. Those who do attend will be given bonus participation points toward their final grade.
February 10	Stowe, <i>Dred</i> , (“Preface-ch. V) http://digital.wustl.edu/d/dre/history.html “Dred Scott v. Sandford” Class discussion led by Prof. Clymer, University of Kentucky and author of <i>America’s Culture of Terrorism: Violence, Capitalism, and the Written Word</i>
February 15	Stowe, <i>Dred</i> , (ch. VI-end of vol. I)
February 17	Stowe, <i>Dred</i> (Vol. II - ch. I-X) Second Paper Due
February 22	Webb, <i>The Garies and Their Friends</i> (ch. I-IX)
February 24	Webb, <i>The Garies and Their Friends</i> (ch. X-XX)
March 1	Webb, <i>The Garies and Their Friends</i> (ch. XXI-End)
March 3	Tourgee, <i>Bricks Without Straw</i> (ch. I-X)
March 8	Tourgee, <i>Bricks Without Straw</i> (ch. XI-XXI)

March 10	Tourgee, <i>Bricks Without Straw</i> (ch. XXII-XXX) Third Paper Due
March 14 – 25 SPRING VACATION (Read Bricks Without Straw)	
March 29	Tourgee's <i>Bricks Without Straw</i> (ch. XXXI-XL)
March 31	Tourgee, <i>Bricks Without Straw</i> (ch. XLI-End)
April 5	NO CLASS
April 7	NO CLASS Third Paper Due (submit before 3 pm to Africana Studies Program Office, 3rd floor, Adams Hall)
April 12	Begin Chesnutt, <i>Marrow of Tradition</i> , (ch. I-V) Background <i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i> http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/historics/USSC_CR_0163_0537_ZS.html Chesnutt, <i>Marrow of Tradition</i> (ch. VI-XVII)
April 14	Chesnutt, <i>Marrow of Tradition</i> (ch. VI-XVII)
April 19	Chesnutt, <i>Marrow of Tradition</i> (ch. XVIII-End)
April 21	Williams, <i>Alchemy of Race and Rights</i> (Section I) Fourth Paper Due
April 26	Williams, <i>Alchemy of Race and Rights</i> (Section II)
April 28	Williams, <i>Alchemy of Race and Rights</i> (Section IV)
May 3	Thomas, <i>My Grandfather's Son</i> (ch. 1-3) OUTLINE DUE
May 5	Thomas, <i>My Grandfather's Son</i> (ch. 4-7)
May 10	Thomas, <i>My Grandfather's Son</i> (ch. 8-end) Final Paper Due