

"The final measure of the greatness of all people is the amount and standard of the literature and art they have produced," James W. Johnson, composer of "Lift Every Voice and Sing," the Negro National Anthem.

An examination of the literary texts, major voices and movements in the U.S.A. from 1940 to the Present. Our exploration and analysis of themes and issues common to all the literature will serve as the basis for understanding the African American experience in this country as articulated and presented both in imaginative literature and essays. Among these concerns are the continuing quest for freedom, identity, protest against racist oppression, and the writers' interpretation of the enduring African American spiritual and cultural values that contributed to the transformation and shaping of this nation. We shall focus on the major developments in African American literature after the Harlem Renaissance, especially the jazz-inspired Black Arts Movement and its impact on the contemporary literature of African Americans.

Open to the following majors: Africana Studies, English and Literature, Political Science, Law, History, Communication and others.

Themes/ Interests:

Cultural Topics

Race and Identity

