

English 235: African –American Literature
Dr. Ben B. Alexander
Egan 273; virtual office:balexander@gwia. franciscan.edu;
virtual class: FUS Academic WEB (Every student must be connected to the FUS web for
weekly receptions of class materials.)

Readings

August--26-28—Three Negro Classics, Booker T. Washington, Up From Slavery, Chp 1 “A Slave Among Slaves thru chp. 14, “The Atlanta Exposition Address”
(outside reading ahead; select one : Carter, Ellison, J.W. Johnson, Z. N. Hurston;
J. Peterkin; Douglass, et al)

Sept 3-5— Three Negro Classics, Booker T. Washington, Up From Slavery, Chp 1
“A Slave Among Slaves- chp. 14, “The Atlanta Exposition Address” W.E.B. Du
Bois, Souls of Black Folk: Chp. 1. “Of Our Spiritual Strivings,” thru Chp 10 “Of the
Faith of our Fathers.” Also last chap, “the Sorrow Songs” (outside reading ahead
select one: Carter, Ellison, J.W. Johnson, Z. N. Hurston; J. Peterkin; Douglass et
al)

Sept 9-11—first cultural ID sheets due this week based on readings and lectures; **W.E.B.
Du Bois, Souls of Black Folk: Chp. 1. “Of Our Spiritual Strivings,” thru Chp 10 “Of
the Faith of our Fathers.” Also last chap, “the Sorrow Songs”** (outside reading
ahead: Carter, Ellison, J.W. Johnson, Z. N. Hurston; J. Peterkin; Douglass)

Sept. 16-17—Edgar Allan Poe, Narrative or Arthur Gordon Pym (outside reading
ahead: Carter, Ellison, J.W. Johnson, Z. N. Hurston; J. Peterkin; Douglass)

Sept. 24-27 -- Edgar Allan Poe, Narrative or Arthur Gordon Pym; Toni Morrison, A
Mercy; (outside reading ahead: Carter, Ellison, J.W. Johnson, Z. N. Hurston; J.
Peterkin; Douglass)

Oct. 1.—comprehensive factual test over readings thus far;; Toni Morrison, A
Mercy; (outside reading ahead: Carter, Ellison, J.W. Johnson, Z. N. Hurston; J.
Peterkin; Douglass)

Sept. 30—Oct 2—Stephen L. Carter, The Emperor of Ocean Park, Part I, Nowotny
Interference, thru chp. 17, “The Brass Ring”; (outside reading ahead: Carter,
Ellison, J.W. Johnson, Z. N. Hurston; J. Peterkin; Douglass)

Oct. 7-9-- Stephen L. Carter, The Emperor of Ocean Park, Part II, Tourton
Doubling, thru chp, 25, “A Modest Request” (outside reading ahead: Carter,
Ellison, J.W. Johnson, Z. N. Hurston; J. Peterkin; Douglass)

Oct. 14-16—August Wilson, Three Plays “Fences” & “Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom”
(outside reading ahead: **Carter, Ellison, J.W. Johnson, Z. N. Hurston; J. Peterkin; Douglass**)

Oct, 29-Nov 1. Fall break: Julia Peterkin, Scarlet Sister Mary (outside reading ahead;
complete one: **Carter, Ellison, J.W. Johnson, Z. N. Hurston; J. Peterkin; Douglass**)

Nov 5—papers due noon, Nov. 4, class; Ellison, Invisible Man, chps. 1-9

Nov. 12—TEST; Ellison, Invisible Man, chps. 1-13, plus Epilogue, last 11 pps of novel.

Nov. 19—Paul Lawrence Dunbar poetry section, Soul Grown Deep, Langston Hughes,
Best of Simple, first 100 pps

Nov. 24—short paper due at Egan 273, by 6 pm

Early December—Colson Whitehead, Sag Harbor