

 FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY	NEW COURSE PROPOSAL Undergraduate Programs		UUPC Approval <u>2/27/23</u> UFS Approval _____ SCNS Submittal _____ Confirmed _____ Banner Posted _____ Catalog _____
	Department American Literature College Wilkes Honors College <i>(To obtain a course number, contact erudolph@fau.edu)</i>		
Prefix AML Number 4611	<i>(L = Lab Course; C = Combined Lecture/Lab; add if appropriate)</i> Lab Code	Type of Course <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px;">Lecture</div>	Course Title Honors Afrofuturism
Credits <i>(See Definition of a Credit Hour)</i> 3	Grading <i>(Select One Option)</i> Regular <input checked="" type="radio"/> Sat/UnSat <input type="radio"/>	Course Description <i>(Syllabus must be attached; see Template and Guidelines)</i> Students will read and critically analyze literature, academic scholarship, and other resources in exploring the multi-genre creative movement of Afrofuturism, which reevaluates the past and imagines alternate realities and futures for African American and African peoples.	
Effective Date <i>(TERM & YEAR)</i> Fall 2023	Prerequisites, with minimum grade* 2000-level literature course with minimum grade of C		Corequisites None
		Registration Controls <i>(Major, College, Level)</i> None	
*Default minimum passing grade is D-. Prereqs., Coreqs. & Reg. Controls are enforced for all sections of course			
WAC/Gordon Rule Course <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No WAC/Gordon Rule criteria must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to proposal. See WAC Guidelines .		Intellectual Foundations Program (General Education) Requirement <i>(Select One Option)</i> None General Education criteria must be indicated in the syllabus and approval attached to the proposal. See Intellectual Foundations Guidelines .	
Minimum qualifications to teach course Terminal degree in African American literature, American literature, African American studies, Africana studies, or Women's studies			
Faculty Contact/Email/Phone Washington/swashington@fau.edu/9-8818		List/Attach comments from departments affected by new course American Literature; Women's Studies	
Approved by Department Chair <u>Miguel Ángel Vázquez</u> College Curriculum Chair <u>Rachel Corr</u> College Dean <u>Julia Earles</u> UUPC Chair <u>Ethlyn Williams</u> Undergraduate Studies Dean <u>Dan Meeroff</u> UFS President _____ Provost _____			Date 2/13/2023 2/13/2023 2/14/2023 2/27/23 2/27/23 _____ _____

Email this form and syllabus to mjenning@fau.edu seven business days before the UUPC meeting.



AML 4611
HONORS AFROFUTURISM

T/TH 2:00 – 3:20 P.M.

SR 279

3 credits

Fall 2023

Dr. Sondra Bickham Washington

Office: SR 230

Office hours: By appointment, TH 1–3 p.m.

Telephone: 561-799-8818

Email: swashington@fau.edu

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NOTICE: One of the objectives of this course is to facilitate critical thinking and debate around topics, theories, and concepts where disagreement is not only anticipated, but encouraged. The ability to think critically, express your ideas clearly, and respond to the professor and other students civilly are the keystones of the academic experience. In this course, the professor will provide instruction in an objective manner and will remain open to a wide variety of viewpoints, so long as those viewpoints are evidence-based and presented in a respectful way. During class, the professor may take positions and make statements for the sole purpose of accomplishing an academic objective or enhancing the learning environment. Additionally, the adoption of class materials for this course does not imply an endorsement of the full content of those materials or the positions of the authors of those materials. Often the professor will provide materials as a point of departure for critical thinking and debate. Students should keep in mind that the ideas presented or discussed during class may not necessarily reflect the professor's personal beliefs or opinions on the subject matter.

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**UNCHAINED IMAGINATIONS: PERSPECTIVES, POSSIBILITIES,
& PROGRESS IN AFROFUTURISM**

“If you see the future, ask it if I’m there.” — Maxwell, “Help Somebody”

Required Books

- *Dark Matter* edited by Sheree R. Thomas
- *The Parable of the Sower* by Octavia Butler
- *Binti* by Nnedi Okorafor
- Other literature and scholarship will be available online.

***Disclaimer:** Some of the titles assigned and discussed in this course will contain difficult subject matter including explicit language and sexual and other forms of physical violence.

Prerequisite

Minimum grade of “C” in 2000-level literature course.

Course Description

Students will read and critically analyze literature, academic scholarship, and other resources in exploring the multi-genre creative movement of Afrofuturism, which reevaluates the past and imagines

alternate realities and futures for African American and African peoples. This honors course offers an in-depth exploration of Afrofuturism, its historical context, and a variety of authors and scholars contributing to its current progression and myriad manifestations. As we engage this literature and scholarship, students will work both individually, composing traditional academic scholarship, and collectively, creating a podcast episode, which may be featured on the WHC OwlLit podcast. I will deliver this class in-person, as scheduled. No lesson is intended to espouse, promote, advance, inculcate, or compel a particular feeling, perception, viewpoint, or belief.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester,

- You will be able to critically read, analyze, and engage Afrofuturistic literature and academic scholarship.
- You will be able to create, record, and publish a podcast using Audacity.
- You will demonstrate an understanding of the relevance of both traditional academic and public-facing scholarship.
- You will demonstrate correctness in the written conventions of the university discourse community, including grammar, punctuation, mechanics, usage, and basic citation and paper formatting.

Course Evaluation Method

The following table lists all assignments and their percentage values. Required assignments that carry no point values must be completed in order for you to receive full credit for the unit and the course.

ASSIGNMENT	DUE DATE	PERCENTAGE
Exploratory Prompt and Discussion Leadership	Once during semester	20%
Critical Analysis Essay	Sat., Nov. 12 @ 8 p.m.	30%
Abstract, Outline, and Abstract Workshop	TBD	15%
Final Project – Podcast Episode and Elements	Dec. 13 1:15-3:45p.m.	20%
Final Presentation	Dec. 13	10%
Class Participation	Throughout semester	5%
TOTAL		100%

Note on Honors Distinction

This Honors course differs from a non-Honors course in the work and intellectual demands it places on students. In addition to the textbook readings, students will read articles published by professional scholars in peer-reviewed journals, and are expected to think critically about the debates within the field.

Policy on Makeup Tests, Late Work, and Incompletes

Late work will not be accepted without penalty unless you make arrangements with the professor for an extension prior to the due date. Otherwise, ***10 points will be deducted from your final grade on the assignment for each day the assignment is late.*** (This applies to both formal papers and informal writing.) **Late work will not be accepted after three late days.** Students will not be penalized for

absences due to illness or participation in university-approved activities. See the attendance policy below. Reasonable accommodation will also be made for students participating in a religious observance. Grades of Incomplete (“I”) are reserved for students who are passing a course but have not completed all the required work because of exceptional circumstances.

Course Grading Scale

“A” work is generally regarded as excellent; “B” work is good; “C” work is competent; “D” work is marginally below college standards; and “F” work is clearly below minimum college standards. Unsubmitted work or work that does not follow the assignment (though otherwise acceptable) will also receive an “F.” I will provide more specific grading criteria on assignment sheets and/or rubrics.

A = 93 – 100	B- = 80 – 82	D+ = 67 – 69
A- = 90 – 92	C+ = 77 – 79	D = 63 – 66
B+ = 87 – 89	C = 73 – 76	D- = 60 – 62
B = 83 – 86	C- = 70 – 72	F = 59 – 0

Classroom Etiquette Policy

Many of the texts we will discuss this semester contain sensitive and potentially polarizing subject matter. In agreement with and adherence to the National Council of Teachers of English “Statement on Language, Power, and Action,” our discussions in this course will be grounded in “fact-based reasoning, writing, and communication,” which demonstrate a respect for “diversity, equity, social justice, and intellectual and pedagogical freedom” for your classmates, the professor, and other people and groups beyond this classroom. To phrase it more succinctly, I invoke the famous words of Queen of Soul Aretha Franklin, who rhythmically requests, “All I’m asking for is a little respect.”

Disruptive behavior is defined in the FAU Student Code of Conduct as “activities which interfere with the educational mission within the classroom.” Students who disrupt the educational experiences of other students and/or the instructor’s course objectives in a face-to-face or online course are subject to disciplinary action. Such behavior impedes students’ ability to learn or an instructor’s ability to teach. Disruptive behavior may include, but is not limited to non-approved use of electronic devices (including cellular telephones); cursing or shouting at others in such a way as to be disruptive; or, other violations of an instructor’s expectations for classroom conduct. For more information, please see the [FAU Office of Student Conduct](#).

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all of their scheduled University classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as outlined by the instructor. The effect of absences upon grades is determined by the instructor, and the University reserves the right to deal at any time with individual cases of non-attendance. Students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence, such as illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations or participation in University-approved activities. Examples of University-approved reasons for absences include participating on an athletic or scholastic team, musical and theatrical performances and debate

activities. It is the student's responsibility to give the instructor notice prior to any anticipated absences and within a reasonable amount of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. Instructors must allow each student who is absent for a University-approved reason the opportunity to make up work missed without any reduction in the student's final course grade as a direct result of such absence.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center

Life as a university student can be challenging physically, mentally and emotionally. Students who find stress negatively affecting their ability to achieve academic or personal goals may wish to consider utilizing FAU's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center. CAPS provides FAU students a range of services – individual counseling, support meetings, and psychiatric services, to name a few – offered to help improve and maintain emotional well-being. For more information, go to <http://www.fau.edu/counseling/>

Disability Policy

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow all SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU's campuses – Boca Raton, Davie and Jupiter – however disability services are available for students on all campuses. For more information, please visit the SAS website at www.fau.edu/sas/.

Code of Academic Integrity

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see [University Regulation 4.001](#).

[Plagiarism](#) is the deliberate use and appropriation of another's work without identifying the source and trying to pass off such work as one's own. Any student who fails to give full credit for ideas or materials taken from another has plagiarized. This includes all written assignments and oral presentations. Plagiarism is unacceptable in the University community. Academic work must be an original work of your own thought, research, or self-expression. When students borrow ideas, wording, or organization from another source, they must acknowledge that fact in an appropriate manner. If in doubt, cite your source. To reinforce this policy in our course, **you must complete a Plagiarism Assignment by the end of the second week of class**, as noted on our course schedule.

Support Services & Online Resources

- [Center for eLearning and Student Success](#)
- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#)
- [FAU Libraries](#)
- [Freshmen Academic Advising Services](#)

- [Math Learning Center](#)
- [Office of Information Technology Helpdesk](#)
- [Office of International Programs and Study Abroad](#)
- [Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry](#)
- [Student Accessibility Services](#)
- [University Center for Excellence in Writing](#)

Course Assignments

Exploratory Prompt and Discussion Leadership

One very important element of writing strong literary research papers is the ability to interrogate and contextualize texts — to ask open-ended questions that spark deeper readings and understandings of literature. You will apply this type of interrogation to at least one text over the course of the semester, and you will use your exploratory writing to develop questions that will assist you in leading our class’s conversation about that text. Discussion leadership can occur between **Sept. 6 to Nov. 8**.

Before your presentation date:

- Sign up for an exploratory prompt **by Sat., Aug. 27 at 8 p.m.**
- Write a 2-page critical response to and a list of discussion questions about the chosen text.
- Submit the exploratory prompt and questions to the corresponding Canvas assignment prior to your chosen discussion date.
- Email your classmates your discussion questions **at least 24 hours before the class date**.

On your presentation date:

- Begin by describing your exploratory prompt to the class.
- Then, lead the class in discussing the literature.

Abstract and Abstract Workshop

In preparation for the critical analysis paper, you must write an abstract that describes the argument you plan to make in your paper and how you plan to present it. (A more detailed assignment will be offered as the due date approaches). After the due date, students will share their abstracts with the class, and we will devote a class meeting to workshopping the abstracts to help each other improve plans for the paper.

Critical Analysis Paper

You must write a **10-page literary analysis** in which you argue for a particular interpretation of one or more texts. Your paper must be presented in MLA format and must include an arguable thesis, careful attention to the language of the texts, and attention to their patterns and/or themes. It must also exhibit an advanced understanding of the context of the text(s) as well as an awareness of relevant scholarship.

Any sources used, including the original text, must be cited on a separate works cited page. Your essay will be graded based on the depth of your ideas, use of appropriate and credible textual evidence, and quality of writing. Plagiarized papers will receive a “Zero” grade.

Final Podcast Episode and Presentation

More information about this assignment will be provided later this semester.

Class Schedule

All readings and assignments must be completed by the class for which they are listed.

Note: I reserve the right to occasionally change assignments and due dates. You will always be notified well in advance of any changes.

WEEK	DATE	READINGS and ASSIGNMENTS DUE
1	Aug. 23	Introductions and Course Information
	Aug. 25	View: Ethnic Notions documentary (available on FAU Library's Kanopy database) "Afrofuturism: From Books to Blockbusters" Class Discussion Leader Sign-up Due Sat., Aug. 27 @ 8 p.m.
2	Aug. 30	"Black to the Future" by Mark Dery
	Sept. 1	DM: "Racism and Science Fiction" (383-397) and "The Monophobic Response" (415-416)
3	Sept. 6	DM: "The Comet" (5-18)
	Sept. 8	DM: excerpt from <i>Black No More</i> (35-50)
4	Sept. 13	DM: "Aye, and Gomorrah" (124-133)
	Sept. 15	DM: "Future Christmas" (275-289)
5	Sept. 20	DM: "Gimmile's Song" (210-225)
	Sept. 22	DM: "The Evening and the Morning and the Night" (171-198)
6	Sept. 27	DM: "The Space Traders" (326-355)
	Sept. 29	<i>Parable of the Sower</i> (Ch. 1-4)
7	Oct. 4	<i>Parable of the Sower</i> (Ch. 5-10)
	Oct. 6	<i>Parable of the Sower</i> (Ch. 11-14)
8	Oct. 11	<i>Parable of the Sower</i> (Ch. 15-18)
	Oct. 13	<i>Parable of the Sower</i> (Ch. 19-22)
9	Oct. 18	<i>Parable of the Sower</i> (Ch. 23-25)
	Oct. 20	DM: "separation anxiety" (51-68)
10	Oct. 25	DM: "Like Daughter" (91-102)
	Oct. 27	DM: "Buddy Bolden" (116-123)
11	Nov. 1	DM: "The Pretended" (356-371)
	Nov. 3	<i>Binti</i>
12	Nov. 8	<i>Binti</i> (cont.)
	Nov. 10	"Valedictorian" and excerpt of <i>The Fifth Season</i> by N. K. Jemisin
13	Nov. 15	"The City Born Great" by N. K. Jemisin

13	Nov. 17	In-class Essay Work Session LITERARY ANALYSIS ESSAY DUE – Sat., Nov. 19 @ 8 p.m.
14	Nov. 22	In-class Podcast Work Session
	Nov. 24	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – NO CLASS MEETING
15	Nov. 29	Semester Podcast Project Workshop
	Dec. 1	Semester Review
	Tues., Dec. 13	<p style="text-align: center;">FINAL SEMESTER SUBMISSIONS DUE TUES., DEC. 13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PODCAST – Due before 1:15 p.m. ● PRESENTATIONS – 1:15 - 3:45 p.m. ● <i>No late submissions will be accepted.</i>