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Fall 2017  
Student: J  
Faculty: A

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**Plan of Study:** This Honors study will focus primarily on the literary and rhetorical strategies used by African American writers to resist oppression, argue for justice, and reimagine socioeconomic realities. In addition, this study will consider how issues of identity formation, political oppression, and racial injustice inform the work of African American writers. As this study will take place in English 2132: American Literature Since 1865, this study will focus on literature written after Reconstruction.

This study will allow the student to deepen her analysis of texts assigned on the course syllabus, such as *Mob Rule In New Orleans* by Ida B. Wells, *Up From Slavery* by Booker T. Washington, "Recitatif" by Toni Morrison, and the poetry of Langston Hughes and Lucille Clifton, but it will also include additional literary texts that will provide the student with a more complete comparative context in which to explore her questions, such as *Passing* by Nella Larsen, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston, and *The Man Who Was Almost A Man* by Richard Wright. While 2000-level literary analysis often focuses on textual analysis, this study will allow the student to consider literary works by African American artists with reference to canonical theories of African American identity and artistic production, such as *The Souls of Black Folk* by W.E.B. DuBois and "The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain," by Langston Hughes.

In response to these texts, the student will create an analytical paper that compares at least three literary texts and at least one theoretical text. Once she has identified her area of inquiry and/or thesis, she will also identify a related research question, so that her analysis can be supported and developed by contextual research as well as literary analysis. This research will include work by at least one literary scholar, to be selected once the student narrows her focus. The final essay will be 10-15 pages.

**Meeting Dates:** The initial meeting for this project took place on Wednesday, October 18, 2017. We'll meet twice more, once to determine the student's research area (11/6) and once to consult on a draft of her final project (11/27). I will also be available to meet as needed if she has additional questions.

**Honors Experience Components:** While 2000-level literature classes often task students with textual analysis and contextual research assignments, this Honors study will allow the student to compare and analyze works of literature in both a broader and deeper critical context. This study will provide the student with more breadth than the syllabus allows in the study of her stated area of interest, African American literature. She'll also be able to investigate the rhetorical and aesthetic strategies used by these artists with critical frameworks provided by canonical essays and the work of scholars.