



**19<sup>th</sup> Century African American Literature**  
**Block 4, 2004**  
**Professor Claire Garcia**

In this course, we will examine a variety of texts—work songs, speeches, novels, poetry, and autobiographies—written by African Americans during the second century of our republic. We'll read these texts as insights into African American history and experience, as contributions to the development of an American literary tradition, and as works which pose interesting critical and political questions to today's readers.

**Texts**

Packet to be purchased in the English Office

Appiah, Early African-American Classics

Brown, William Wells. Clotel, or The President's Daughter (1853)

Griggs, Imperium Imperio (1899)

Webb, Frank. The Garies and Their Friends (1857)

**Work**

Your final grade will be based on the following components:

Oral Presentation, 30%; First Paper, 5-8 pages, 20%; Second Paper 8-12 pages, 30%;  
Class participation (informal assignments and voluntary contributions) 20%. Each of your papers and your oral presentation must be on different texts.

**Class Meetings and Attendance**

We will meet from 9:30-12:30. Tardies and absences will be noted and will adversely affect your final grade by at least half a grade.

**Contact**

The best way to reach me outside of class is by e-mail ([cgarcia@coloradocollege.edu](mailto:cgarcia@coloradocollege.edu)).  
One-on-one conversations with me face-to-face, by phone or e-mail may count toward your class participation grade. My office hours are Wednesday, 8:30 to 10:30.  
My phone number is 6510.

### **Honor Code**

I expect all students to uphold the Colorado College Honor Code in all their work for the class.



Reading Assignments

Dates

and Presentation

**Week One: *The Slave Narrative***

Monday: Introductions and overview of the questions and content of the course. Questions for your oral assignments.

Tuesday: **CLASS IS IN LIBRARY TLC 1 FOR PRESENTATION RE: USING LIBRARY RESOURCES FOR YOUR REPORTS AND PAPERS.** In handout, Wheatley introduction and poems.

Wednesday: Off to read.

Thursday: Douglass, *Narrative* (entire) in Appiah.

Friday: Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* in Appiah, 113-248. In Packet, "Female Slave Resistance"

**Week Two:**

Monday: *Incidents*, 249-end and in packet, "Lifting the Veil, Shattering the Silence."

***The Ante-Bellum Novel***

Tuesday: Brown, *Clotel*, Chronology, "Narrative of the Life" and Chapters I-VII; Jefferson, "Notes on the State of Virginia" and "Letter Exchange" in Brown, 335-348.

Wednesday: Finish *Clotel*, entire. "Walker's Appeal" 348-360 and in packet, read "Major Abolitionist Voices" and "Clotel and the Historicity of Anecdote." *Student Presentation.*

Thursday: Off to read. First paper due at 4 pm.

Friday: Webb, *The Garies*, Chapters I-XIX. **DO NOT READ THE INTRODUCTION UNTIL AFTER YOU HAVE FINISHED THE BOOK.**

**Week Three:**

Monday: *The Garies* XX-end and, in packet, "Frank J. Webb's the Garies and their Friends: An Early Black Novelist's Venture into Realism." *Student presentation on The Garies.*

## Reconstruction and Beyond

Tuesday: In packet, Wells, Introduction and selections and Sojourner Truth speeches (258-264) *Student Presentation*.

Wednesday: Off to read.

Thursday: In Appiah, Johnson, Autobiography of an Ex-Coloured Man. *Student presentation*.

Friday: Griggs, Imperium in Imperio, Introduction, Chronology, "To the Public," Berl Trout's Declaration and Chapters I-VIII.

## Week Four

Monday: Friday: Imperium, Chapters IX to end. *Student presentation*.

Tuesday: Peer group paper revision meetings. Remember that all copies of first drafts must be handed in with the final papers.

Wednesday: Final papers due at 12 noon. Happy Holidays!

