

3363-Masterpieces of African American Fiction

Dr. Cedric Tolliver

This course introduces students to prose fiction in the African American literary tradition through the study of four novels: Charles Chesnutt's *The Marrow of Tradition*; Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*; James Baldwin's *Go Tell It on the Mountain*; and Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon*. The study of these novels will be grounded in the principles of contemporary literary and cultural criticism and will require students to develop close reading, critical thinking, and clear writing skills. Over the course of the semester, students will acquire at least rudimentary research skills in order to undertake a self-directed literary-historical research project. This project will provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of literary texts as aesthetic responses to and reflections of particular historical moments. In sum, this course is about learning to read literary texts, conduct research, and write essays.