

**ELIT 40: African American Literature
Winter 2025 – Section 01Y
CRN: 39137**



Instructor: Prof Julie Wilson, PhD (she/her/hers)

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Required In Person Classes: Wednesdays 12:30-2:20pm in Room ADM103.

Drop in Office Hours: Mon 1-2:30pm, Wed & Thurs [Zoom only] 9-10am, or by appointment. <https://fhda-edu.zoom.us/j/83263668601> Meeting ID: 832 6366 8601

Course at a Glance:

<p>What materials are required?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course Canvas Website accessible via your De Anza My Portal 	<p>How do I get help?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with instructor during Office Hours. (If scheduled office hours don't work for you, email me to arrange a time that fits both of our schedules.) Contact a classmate (Get contact info of 2-3 classmates by Week 3). Check Canvas for info and resources. Writing & Reading Center tutoring
<p>What are the Important Dates?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last day to Add: Sun, 1/19 Last day to Drop w/o W: Sun, 1/19 MLK School Holiday: Mon, 1/20 Presidents' Day Holiday: Mon, 2/17 Last day to Drop w/ W: Fri, 2/28 Final Exam schedule: Wed, 3/26, from 11:30am-1:30pm. 	<p>When are the Unit Projects due?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 1 – Mon, 1/27 Mid Term – Wed, 2/19 Unit 2 – Mon, 3/9 Unit 3 – Wed, 3/19 Final Exam – W, 3/26 from 11:30am - 1:30pm

When Life Happens...

I know that unexpected and stressful things happen: illnesses, family difficulties, financial challenges, and many other unpleasant surprises. I wish these things didn't happen during the academic quarter, but they do. Sometimes when these things happen, students "disappear"; they stop completing assignments and ignore my emails until it is too late. But there is a better alternative: reach out to me and together we can figure out the best course of action. Your success in this class is important to me and I will do what I can to help you succeed. So please, if life happens to you this quarter, **SEND ME AN EMAIL OR COME TO DROP IN OFFICE HOURS!**

I. What will I learn in ELIT 40?

In ELIT 40, you will examine significant authors, movements, and traditions in African American literature from the era of enslavement to the present. You will be guided to pay attention to key trends, styles, and issues related to race in the United States.

Here are the specific skills ELIT 40 is designed to guide you towards obtaining. Each assignment you complete in this course will contribute to your growth towards these goals.

Students Learning Outcomes – In ELIT 40, students will:

- Analyze the defining formal and stylistic attributes of African American Literature including the genres of memoir, essay, fiction, poetry and drama.
- Assess the fluctuating socio-historical contexts that have influenced the development of African American literary texts.

Course Objectives – In our ELIT 40, we will:

- Examine a diverse range of African American literary texts within a variety of social contexts including, but not limited to race, gender, class, and sexuality.
- Identify significant literary figures, periods, and movements important to the development of African American literature.
- Apply key methods of interpreting and evaluating literary texts amid discreet and multi-genre writing.
- Appraise the relationship between traditional literary texts and additional forms of African American cultural expression.

II. What are the Required Texts and Materials?

- *Citizen: An American Lyric* by Claudia Rankin.
- Course Canvas Website accessible via your De Anza My Portal

What Other Materials Might be Helpful?

- *What, Why, How? Mastering 15 Concepts to Become a Better Writer* by Skyline College. Available (for free!) online.
- Access to a computer or mobile device capable of accessing the Internet.
- De Anza has laptops and tablets available for you to use or borrow for the quarter.
- If you create a De Anza College email account, you'll get Microsoft Office 365 for free! That will be especially useful to you in this class and beyond.

III. What are the Attendance Requirements?

During our in-person classes, I will take attendance (after a 10-minute grace period). If you are late, need to leave early, or miss more than 2 classes, be sure to talk to me about it so that I can understand. The number of absences you have will impact your

grade according to the Grade Goal Contract. But in general, students who miss more than two (2) classes are at risk of not passing the class and of being dropped from the class. Because our class only meets once per week, missing more than 2 classes (including arriving late or leaving early) might mean that you need to take a class with a different schedule. We can work through that together to make sure you are set up to manage all your responsibilities effectively.

College students like you have a lot of responsibilities: multiple courses, work, family, self-care, etc. It takes significant effort to juggle everything; sometimes you'll need to miss class. You're an adult and I trust you to make thoughtful decisions that are right for you. And there is tremendous value in learning together. I will do my best to make in-person classes worth your time. In class, we'll collaborate, share helpful examples, answer questions, and even begin assignments. Coming to class will only deepen your learning and critical literacy skills. And it will help us create a strong, positive classroom community.

The [De Anza Student Rights and Responsibilities](#) page has more information regarding class attendance and participation.

Should I wear a Face Mask on Campus?

- Face masks are **strongly recommended** on campus and **may be required** in some offices or by individual instructors in their classrooms.
- Your mask must **cover your mouth AND nose at all times**. See the [Face Mask Information webpage](#) for details and locations where you can get a free mask.
- Please continue to **practice social distancing** and follow any posted instructions.
- Find out more about De Anza's [requirements for students coming to campus](#).

Need a Face Mask on Campus? Limited supplies are available. Check the [Face Mask Information webpage](#) for locations on campus where you can get a **free N95 or KN95 mask**.

What if I Need to Drop this Class?

I want you to stay in class and finish the quarter. However, I know there are times when you just need to drop. If this happens, PLEASE talk to me first. If for some reason you cannot talk to me about it, it's in your best interest to withdraw through your De Anza "My Portal" tab or in person at Admissions & Records. If you just stop showing up to class and stop communicating, it takes me a few weeks to determine if you're really dropping the class. And there are De Anza deadlines that can impact your payment of school fees, as well as your status/grades on your De Anza transcript.

IV. How will I be Graded in ELIT 40?

I'm trying something new this quarter; we will be using a system called Contract Grading for this course. My intention is to focus more on *practicing* reading, writing, and critical thinking skills and less on counting points for a grade which lends itself to more "cheating" (such as not writing your own work). I also want you to feel more comfortable

with the expectation that YOU are writing your own essays. You will have the opportunity to revise up to two times and submit your best work. Once your assignment is passing, you will receive a “Check Mark” in Canvas which means the assignments will count toward your Grade Goal.

Since we are trying this for the first time, as a class, we will review the details of the Contract Grading system in the middle of the term to negotiate possible adjustments.

Grade Goals Breakdown

To determine your Grade Goal, decide which letter grade you’d like to strive for this quarter. Then find your letter grade at the top of the chart and complete the number of each type of assignment as indicated in the chart. You are in control and can make personal adjustments given your personal schedule and goals!

Activity	A	B	C
3 Major Unit Assignments: 3 total	3	3	3
Essay Process Assignments (EPAs): 9 total (EX: Pre-writing, Drafting, Peer Review)	9	8	7
Metacognitive Reflection (Unit Assignment Reflection, Mid Quarter meeting with Instructor): 4 total	4	3 (instructor meeting)	2 (instructor meeting +)
Class Presentations (Socio-historical Contexts, Lead Class Discussion): 2 total	2	2	2
Homework (ex: Reading Quizzes, Discussion Posts & Responses): 10 total	10	9	8
Final Presentation	1	1	1
Last Assignments Allowed	2	3	4
Absences	1	2	3

*For each essay assignment or final exam that is not submitted or passing by the end of the term, the course grade will lower by one letter grade.

If you are going for an “A” in the class, you will complete and pass:

- 3 Major Unit Assignments
- 9 Essay Process Assignments
- 4 Metacognitive Reflection Assignments
- 2 Class Presentations
- 10 Homework Assignments
- Final Presentation
- You are allowed 2 Late Assignments
- 1 Absence

If you are going for an “B” in the class, you will complete and pass:

- 3 Major Unit Assignments
- 8 Essay Process Assignments

- 3 Metacognitive Reflection Assignments (one of which must be the Instructor Meeting)
- 2 Class Presentations
- 9 Homework Assignments
- Final Presentation
- You are allowed 3 Late Assignments
- 2 Absences

If you are going for an “C” in the class, you will complete and pass:

- 3 Major Unit Assignments
- 7 Essay Process Assignments
- 2 Metacognitive Reflection Assignments (one of which must be the Instructor Meeting)
- 2 Class Presentations
- 8 Homework Assignments
- Final Presentation
- You are allowed 4 Late Assignments
- 3 Absences

*For each major essay or final exam assignment that is not submitted or passing by the end of the term, the course grade will lower by one letter grade.

Can I Revise my Work?

If your assignment is not passing, you will see a “X” in the Grade column for that assignment. There are no limits on the number of assignments you can revise. However, for each assignment, you can only revise up to TWO TIMES. If your assignment is still not passing after your second revision, it will be considered “Incomplete” and will not count toward your Grade Goal.

Look at the list of assignments for the course and complete the number of assignments listed for the grade goal to earn your desired grade.

Can I submit Late/Make Up Assignments and Quizzes?

You are allowed a specific number of late assignments depending on your Grade Goal. Aim to submit any late work by the end of the Essay Unit when the Major Essay for that Unit is due, but not later than the middle of the term (M, 2/17 at 11:59pm) for Unit 1 and not later than the end of the term (W, 3/26 at 11:59pm) for Units 2-3.

NOTE:

- All Essay Process Assignments (EPAs) must be submitted in the order they were assigned. For example, a rough draft cannot be completed after the final draft.
- Peer Reviews cannot be submitted late since your Peers require their feedback before submitting their final drafts.
- The final exam cannot be submitted late because final grades are due immediately after we finish the course.
- You are expected to turn in your best work.

- All items on the list for a Grade Goal must be completed in order to earn that grade. Failure to complete any of the required Grade Goal Items will mean an automatic deduction to the lower grade. Grade Goals are the minimum you need to complete with a “PASS” for the desired grade. For example, if your desired grade goal is a C and you fail to resubmit an essay or a homework assignment for a Pass, the grade earned in the course will be a D. If you fail to resubmit more than one assignment for a Pass, your grade will fall to an F. If you submit 5 EPAs (instead of 6) and otherwise have an A, your grade will become a B.

One of the expectations of college is that you are still expected to submit assignments even if you are absent. This is because as a college student, you are investing in yourself and your own learning. If you are absent, see the weekly Tasks on our course Canvas site so you know what’s due. You can also contact a classmate and/or me to get information about activities and assignments.

It is your responsibility to double check your grades to ensure that everything has been graded. I must be notified of any and all assignments to be considered for final grading by no later than the last day of the class. Once grades are posted, it is only the extreme exception when the instructor has made a clear error that submitted grades may be changed. Double-check your grades throughout the quarter.

How can I Track my grades?

Throughout the quarter, I will record your grades on the "Grades" page of our course Canvas site. The total grade in the far-right column within the “Grades” page will show your EWRT 1A grade.

Once you've posted an assignment in Canvas, I'll get a notification which will prompt me to grade your work. (I try to grade on a weekly basis.) However, if you go back and reply within an assignment that you’ve already submitted, I do **not** get a notification. So, there may be times when I am not aware that you've posted something for me to re-grade. If you've posted something and it hasn't been graded after 2 weeks, message me.

It is your responsibility to let me know if you have any ungraded assignments. Double-check your grades throughout the quarter to ensure that all your work has been graded. Notify me by no later than the last day of class if any of your assignments need (re-)grading. Once final grades are posted at the end of the quarter, it is only the extreme exception when the instructor has solely made a clear error that submitted grades may be changed.

VI. What is Academic Integrity?

Academic integrity means honesty in academic work. Integrity and honesty are among the most important qualities college students need to develop and maintain. You're here to learn, grow and develop academic and career skills; therefore, all of your coursework should be a result of your own efforts. I understand that you can often feel pressured and overwhelmed by the demands of school, work, and personal commitments. No matter what level of stress you may be experiencing, it is still expected that you will

approach your work with honesty and integrity. That means avoiding plagiarism (quoting or paraphrasing material without documentation and/or copying from other students, professionals, or technology like AI, as if you wrote the words yourself). While I recognize that mistakes can happen, violating the college's academic integrity policies may compromise your academic career. You would also be devaluing your resulting degree or certificate when you enter the workforce or transfer and cannot meet the expectations that your degree or certification requires. I do not expect anyone to cheat in our class, but you should be aware of the [De Anza Academic Integrity Policy](#) and its consequences for students.

Please get in touch with me if you have concerns about your ability to complete any of our course tasks. I want to help you succeed!

Here are some do and don'ts from [What is Academic Integrity?](#) (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, July 2018).

What to Do:

- "Trust the value of your own intellect."
- "Demonstrate your own achievement and abilities."
- "Do original work for each class."
- "Undertake research honestly and credit others for their work."
- "Ask for help from me, or for more time if you need it!"

What Not to Do:

- "Copy ideas or wording without citing your source."
- "Copy answers from another student."
- "Ask another student to do your work for you."
- "Take an exam or complete an assignment for another student."
- "Purchase papers or have someone write a paper for you."

A Note about Artificial Intelligence (AI) like Chat GPT

AI (Artificial Intelligence) is a growing technology that has had an important impact on many areas in our society, including essay writing. There are pros and cons to using AI. For our class, you must first get my permission to use AI (ex: Chat GPT) in any of our assignments. This is so you practice writing your own thoughts in your own words; this will give you the opportunity to refine your academic writing and develop your own writing voice. All assignments will be scanned and scrutinized for originality.

Safe Space & Mutual Respect

Our class – both in person and on-line – will be a safe space; please do your part to keep it a safe space. Feel free to share your thoughtful ideas and express yourself without judgment. If anything is ever unclear, feel free to ask. You never know—others might have the same question.

Everybody in this class has a right to be heard. Each person brings a unique perspective based on her/his own experience. If you wish to disagree with a specific

argument or claim, you must do so intelligently and respectfully. If you are respectful and thoughtful, I will have your back—regardless of whether I personally agree with you.

VI. Where Can I Get Additional Supports on Campus?

My role is to support you in meeting the course learning goals for ELIT 40. I'm available to help you via office hours and email. And as a De Anza student, you have access to a range of support services that go beyond our classroom. Here is some information to help inform you of those supports and how to access them.

Academic Supports (counselors, accommodations, tutoring, etc.)

- [De Anza Counselors](#) are a key resource to support you in all aspects of college. When in doubt, talk to a De Anza counselor. If you don't already have an assigned counselor, start with the [English Performance Success Counselors](#)
- [De Anza Disability Support Programs and Services](#) (DSPS) Division works to ensure access and promote student success. For more information, visit the DSS website or email them at dss@deanza.edu.
- [Student Success Center](#) provides **FREE tutoring** and supports both in person and via Zoom. Get help from a tutor, attend workshops, and more. Don't struggle with your classes alone!
- Check out [Net Tutoring](#) when campus tutoring is not available.
- [Tips for Starting the Quarter](#) suggests resources that might be helpful to you, including adding classes, spaces to Zoom, on-line assistance, and more.
- Fight procrastination using the [Pomodoro Method](#)! This helps you break down larger tasks into smaller chunks to complete each day. There's even an online [Pomodoro Timer](#)
- [De Anza College Library](#) has texts, reference help, and other resources useful to you as a college student.

Personal Supports (mental health, COVID-19, finding community, etc.)

- [Student Health Services](#) provides supports for your **physical and mental well-being**. Service options are in-person and virtual.
- Check out De Anza's [Mental Health and Wellness Center](#) for **resources to deal with stress, depression, and more**.
- De Anza's COVID-19 [testing and isolation protocols](#) gives updated information about De Anza's COVID policies. There is also [Face Mask Information](#) for details and locations where you can get a free mask.

- **Looking for community on campus?** Check out the [Guide to Student Services](#) Need resources for undocumented students? Are you a parent? A Veteran returning to school? Want to connect to De Anza's Pride Center? Check out the many great campus resources to help you navigate college.
- YOUR De Anza [Village Center](#) is a place to find resources and a community of students and staff who share your interests/major. There are also [virtual Villages](#) with relevant information and services like [degree and transfer maps](#) to help you make steady progress toward your goals.
- Under [Title IX](#), discrimination based upon sex and gender identity is prohibited. If you experience an incident of **sexual misconduct or gender-based discrimination**, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty member, understand that they are considered by the College to be a "Responsible Employee" and therefore required to make a report to the Title IX Coordinator of what you disclose to them. If you want to speak with someone who is considered a "Confidential Employee" and cannot disclose what you share with them without your consent, contact our [Health Services Department](#) and/or [Mental Health & Wellness Center](#). These departments are also a great resource for additional support services both on and off campus.

Financial Supports (food pantry, housing, etc.)

- De Anza's [Financial Aid](#) office can help you find **resources to pay for school** and/or make sure your De Anza accounts are up to date.
- [Resources for Basic Needs](#) Living in the Bay Area is expensive! You have access to resources like **emergency funds, food assistance/food pantry, housing, free VTA Smart travel passes**, and more.
- Check out [De Anza's Food Pantry Services](#)

Technological Supports (borrowing computers, Wi-Fi, using Canvas, etc.)

- [Student Tech Support](#) Technology is key for our classes. **Need a computer? Need help with Canvas? Want better Wi Fi?** There's help for that.
- De Anza offers [help with Canvas](#) if you need assistance with Canvas. You can also click on "Help" in the Canvas course navigation menu or email you onlineeducation@deanza.edu

VII. Course Schedule Preview *(Subject to change; information regarding changes will be shared in class.)*

	Wednesday Class Plan	Your Assignments this Week
Wk 1 1/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course Introductions • Student Introductions • Preview Unit 1 Major Assignment & Texts • Mini Lecture on Paths to Freedom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Introduction • Syllabus Quiz • Post Unit 1 Essay Process Assignment & Provide D-E-S Peer Feedback • Annotate this week's text and post to Week 1 Text Discussion Thread
Wk 2 1/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Presentations – Socio-Historical Periods • Student-Led Text Discussions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socio-Historical Group Presentations • Post Unit 1 Essay Process Assignment & Provide D-E-S Peer Feedback • Annotate this week's text and post to Week 2 Text Discussion Thread
Wk 3 1/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student-Led Text Discussions • Mini Lecture on DuBois's Double Consciousness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student-Led Text Discussions • Post Unit 1 Essay Process Assignment & Provide D-E-S Peer Feedback • Annotate this week's text and post to Week 3 Text Discussion Thread
Wk 4 1/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student-Led Text Discussions • Preview Unit 2 Major Assignment & Texts • Mini lecture on Analyzing Film 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 1 Major Assignment due • Unit 1 Metacognitive Reflection • Student-Led Text Discussions • Post Unit 2 Essay Process Assignment & Provide D-E-S Peer Feedback • Annotate this week's text and post to Week 4 Text Discussion Thread
Wk 5 2/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student-Led Text Discussions • Mini lecture on Intersectionality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student-Led Text Discussions • Post Unit 2 Essay Process Assignment & Provide D-E-S Peer Feedback • Annotate this week's text and post to Week 5 Text Discussion Thread

Wk 6 2/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student-Led Text Discussions • Preview Mid Term • Mini lecture on literary forms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student-Led Text Discussions • Post Unit 2 Essay Process Assignment & Provide D-E-S Peer Feedback • Annotate this week's text and post to Week 6 Text Discussion Thread
Wk 7 2/19		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid Term Exam • Post to Week 7 Text Discussion Thread
Wk 8 2/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>De Anza BSU – Black History Month Presentation</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>De Anza BSU – Black History Month Presentation</i> • Post Unit 2 Essay Process Assignment & Provide D-E-S Peer Feedback • Annotate this week's text and post to Week 8 Text Discussion Thread
Wk 9 3/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student-Led Text Discussions • Preview Unit 3 Major Assignment & Texts • Mini lecture on analyzing poetry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 2 Major Assignment due • Unit 2 Metacognitive Reflection • Student-Led Text Discussions • Post Unit 3 Essay Process Assignment & Provide D-E-S Peer Feedback • Annotate this week's text and post to Week 9 Text Discussion Thread
Wk 10 3/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student-Led Text Discussions • Mini lecture on Black Joy as Resistance • Preview Final Exam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student-Led Text Discussions • Post Unit 3 Essay Process Assignment & Provide D-E-S Peer Feedback • Annotate this week's text and post to Week 10 Text Discussion Thread
Wk 11 3/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student-Led Text Discussions • Final Exam Preparation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 3 Major Assignment due • Unit 3 Metacognitive Reflection • Student-Led Text Discussions • Post Unit 3 Essay Process Assignment & Provide D-E-S Peer Feedback • Annotate this week's text and post to Week 11 Text Discussion Thread

The **Final Exam** is set for Wed, 3/26 at 11:30am - 1:30pm. Everyone is required to attend the Final Exam period.

