

Course Tour Video Transcript: Valerie Gray, professor of English:

Dear students welcome to English 217 african-american literature. You are going to go on a fantastic journey of learning about some of the most prolific african-american writers from the 1700s to the present. Your journey is going to be very emotional we will hit the highs and lows of the content of the literature and the impact that this literature has had on American society. The purpose of this video is to familiarize yourself with the course navigation. This is the home page and under news I will populate this location with additional information about literature any news relevant to our course and any comments regarding the literature of the semester. So you want to make sure that you check this location at the very least every other day.

Course content contains the home page my introduction and then also you will have access to the content browser and the course calendar. The course calendar matches the schedule the course schedule which I'll show you in a few moments so there are various ways in which you can access due dates for assignments and readings. Content contains the learning modules for the course and I do want to take a few moments to go over how the course information is arranged. So first you have the table of contents you have this area start here but do not end here this refers to information that you're going to consult throughout the semester so in this location you will see you have your course syllabus you have a reading schedule you have tips for critical thinking reading and writing very important as you complete this course and then you have information about all of your major assignments.

Now the course is divided into periods so first we have literature of slavery and freedom 1746 to 1865 and then we have literature from 1865 to 1919 from 1919 to 1940 from 1940 to 1960 from 1960 to 1970 and from 1970 to the present so we're going to go over a lot in the next 12 weeks. But I do just want to show you how things are organized under week one because every week has the same organizational pattern. So under week one and under each week that particular week is divided into an overview read watch listen and complete. So the overview for each week just contains specific information about definitions information that you want to consider as you read the literature for this particular week etc. Then you also have the checklist for the week and the checklist refers to the activities that you need to complete for that particular Week. Also under overview you have your weekly expectations and objectives and the overview. These are the three files that you pretty much will find under each week. The read watch listen portion for each week is really the kind of the meat of the week so this would be all of your lecture notes your videos information about each author so this is kind of the central part of the course so this would be all the information that you need to read that you need to listen to or that you need to watch. Please make sure that you go through each file and read each file or listen to each file or view each file in its completeness. So you want to make sure that you take advantage of every morsel in this course and you want to take the time to do that you don't just want to kind of skip through things because you will not understand the links and the objectives learning objectives that need to be reached for this course so make sure that you do take the time. I understand that you're interested in this topic and it is a reading intensive course but please find a way to manage your time so you can enjoy all aspects of the course. So again this is how each week is organized you have your week you have your overview for the week you have the lecture notes of course material for the week and then you have the information that you need to complete for the week. Each week has journal prompts so they're contained here so that you know exactly the question or the topic that you need to address for a specific literature or a specific author so you want to make sure that you keep record of your

journals because you are going to turn them in and another video will explain how to turn in your journals. Your class discussions each week you'll have at least one class discussion some weeks you'll have two class discussion prompts that you have to answer and you have to respond to two of your classmates and again there's a video that explains more about your class discussion prompts. If there is an assignment that is due that particular week you'll have the Dropbox so that you can upload your assignment for the week. So make sure you take a look through the course so that you can find information.

Here you have your assignments so you have your Dropbox even though under complete I will include a Dropbox so you can upload your files for an assignment here you can also go to the Dropbox and you can upload an assignment here as well so various ways in which you can find information. The quiz is the only quiz that you'll have is the final. The rubrics you will have rubrics for your assignments and then again your checklist that appears under overview for each week you can also access the checklist here. Communications would be your discussions and email you can email me within the course but I do recommend that you email me at vagrav@hacc.edu because I check that email more regularly and more efficiently than the course so again I will check here but if you want a quicker response that's probably the best way to contact me. Resources you have your calendar even though it appears you can access it on the homepage as well you can also access it here you have your direct link to the HACC library, smarthinking as a HACC student you can access smarthinking which is the online writing and tutoring center so you have access to this. Your libguide and we'll get to this later on in the semester but you will find this very valuable and actually I you know you really have to use this for your research paper again later on in the semester.

So that is a quick overview of how to navigate through the course should you find it difficult to navigate and find information I highly recommend and encourage you to contact me because I am sure that within a 2 or 3 minute video chat I can share my screen with you and show you exactly where information is so any difficulty that you may experience make sure that you contact me immediately so that we can solve the issue immediately and you can get off and running and enjoy the course. I wish you the best of luck starting off the first day you are successful you are all on even ground and I'm sure with dedication and good time management skills and critical thinking reading and writing you can certainly be successful in the course.