

## **SYLLABUS—African Diaspora Literature & Theory--ZOOM**

**English 2400/Black Studies—Theorizing Africana Literature**

**Professor--Clenora Hudson-Weems, PhD**

**Class: Tuesday and Thursday-11:00-12:15**

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### **Course Description**

**Theorizing Africana Literature is an undergraduate course designed to introduce students to Africana Literary Theory, Thought and Action. Dating back to American Slavery up to today's moments during the trying experiences surrounding global demonstrations contesting racial dominance in the midst of a global coronavirus, the material for this course allows for a reflection on past defining moments, as well as present experiences, as we search for meanings in life in order to move forward for solace and victory for all humankind.**

**The main objective of the course is to introduce students to Africana literary and theoretical constructs as an authentic way of interpreting Africana life, with possible solutions to issues impeding progress for Africana people. Much of this can be found in the mirroring images in literary texts, evolving from some of the most powerful representations of life challenges for Africana people – Unspeakable American Slavery; Emancipation, Reconstruction & Jim Crowism—from late 1800s to the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Booker T. Washington & W.E.B. Dubois); from the Harlem Renaissance (1920s) to the Civil Rights Movement & its Sister, the Black Arts Movement(1960s & 1970s); up to today's Human/Civil Rights Movement, symbolized by countless *Emmett Till Continums*. Current authentic Africana Paradigms—Afrocentricity & Africana Womanism—will lead the discussion comparing & contrasting other theoretical concepts. Other issues & concerns of Africana people, including Reparations, will continue the dialogue in quest for possible workable solutions to eradicate racial dominance. This is the goal expressed in James Weldon Johnson's "Lift Every Voice & Sing," later adopted as the Negro/Black National Anthem. The topics & literary works shift back & forth, from a thematic to a chronological pattern. Learn & Enjoy!**