



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
English

# Syllabus

## African American women's novels

**Course Code:** ENADL9

**Course Title:** African American women's novels  
*Romaner av afrikansk-amerikanska kvinnliga författare*

**Credits:** 7.5

**Degree Level:** Master's level

**Progressive Specialisation:** Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements (A1N)

### Major Field of Study:

ENA (English)

### Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2025-09-05, and is valid from the Spring semester 2026 at Karlstad University.

### Prerequisites

90 ECTS credits in English, including at least 30 ECTS credits at the G2F level or higher, and upper secondary level English 6 or English level 2, or equivalent

### Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. identify, describe, and analyse the thematic and formal features of novels by African American women writers,
2. give an account of and evaluate theories of novels by African American women writers,
3. summarise and evaluate secondary material of relevance to novels by African American women writers, and
4. express themselves well in English in terms of style and structure and present convincing

analyses.

### **Content**

The course treats novels by African American women writers from Frances E.W. Harper and Nella Larsen to science-fiction writer Octavia Butler and Nobel laureate Toni Morrison. The focus is on the 1980s, for various reasons an important decade for African American women writers and the theorisation of their works. This decade is characterised both by the rediscovery of early novels and by a great number of new novels by African American women writers who returned to previous themes and used them in new literary contexts.

### **Reading List**

See separate document.

### **Examination**

Assessment is based on individual written and oral assignments plus active participation in seminars.

If students have a decision from Karlstad University entitling them to Targeted Study Support due to a documented disability, the examiner has the right to give such students an adapted examination or to examine them in a different manner.

### **Grades**

One of the grades Distinction (VG), Pass (G), or Fail (U) is awarded in the examination of the course.

### **Quality Assurance**

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course in order to ensure continuous improvement. Course evaluation is partly based on student views and experiences obtained in accordance with current regulations and partly on other data and documentation. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of any measures to be taken.

### **Course Certificate**

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

### **Additional information**

The local regulations for studies at the Bachelor and Master levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.