

Courses - - Fall 1986

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



CAAS

CENTER FOR AFROAMERICAN AND AFRICAN STUDIES

200 W. Engineering

764-5513

CAAS is pleased to announce a new course:

LITERATURE IN AFRO-AMERICAN CULTURE

CAAS 338    ENG 320    MICHAEL AWKWARD    MWF    10-11    2219 SEB

This new course focuses on literature by Afro-Americans which explores the manifold obstacles to Afro-American culture's survival in American society. Initial course meetings will be devoted to formulating both a general definition of the word culture and an acute understanding of Afro-American culture. Our attention will subsequently focus on literary texts (most of which are novels) whose dramatic action to a significant extent results from protagonists' often-problematic attempts to situate themselves in personally advantageous positions where Afro-American culture and American ideology are concerned. Such a focus will lead to general discussions of related topics such as ethnicity's value in a pluralistic America and gender's role in the resolution of a dual (ethnic and American) citizenship. Texts will include: Richard Wright's Black Boy; Toni Morrison's Song of Solomon; James Weldon Johnson's The Autobiography of an Ex-Coloured Man; Jean Toomer's Cane; and Paul Marshall's Browngirl, Brownstones. Course requirements: one brief (2-4 page) essay; two medium length (6-8 page) essays; frequent quizzes; and active participation.

Michael Awkward is joining our faculty from the University of Pennsylvania where he recently received his PhD. His dissertation, which was supervised by Dr. Houston A. Baker, concentrated on Afro-American Literature and was entitled, "A Circle of Sisters," --an intertextual analysis of Afro-American female novelists.