**Course Goals:** English V275, Black Women Novelists, is an Advanced Common Curriculum course. The Common Curriculum is central to your education at Loyola; it is focused on helping you develop critical thinking and writing skills, introducing you to worlds that are different from your own, and showing you how to assess values that are different from those that you have developed. Ideally, the Common Curriculum should integrate your learning from several different disciplines, so that you see the connections between the arts, historical events, religious and philosophical movements, and political and social thought. This course will focus on several areas of the Common Curriculum most notably:

- The course will help you develop effective skills in critical thinking and writing through in-class writing, papers, and exams.
- The course will help you develop reading, listening, and speaking skills through the assigned texts, class discussion, and responses to the texts, art, music, and to other students' ideas.
- The course will help you understand other cultures, and focus on a wider world than your own through readings and research of the basis for the texts studied.
- The course will help you reflect on your own values and on the values latent in the text through your writing and discussion.
- The course will help you focus on issues of social justice and the Jesuit mission through the papers and class discussion.

**Course Objectives:** Through the study of Black women novelists and their work, you will gain a deeper understanding of these authors' individual cultures and the connections these authors have to one another. You will critically analyze the texts and films, and demonstrate your intellectual engagement with the material through your writing and discussion.

**Prerequisites:** to enroll in English V275, students must have passed English T125 or English A205.

**Required Texts:**
- So Long a Letter by Mariama Bâ
- Nervous Conditions by Tsitsi Dangarembga
Course Requirements:
1. Four essays- 60% of your grade
   Essays 1, 2, 3  40% of your grade
   Essay 4 (research paper)  20% of your grade
   Each essay must be formatted according to MLA guidelines. Papers will be due at the
   beginning of class on the due date. For each day that a paper is late, the grade will
   be lowered by a third. For example, a B will become a B- if the paper is one day late. Please
   note that the days we do not meet, including weekend days, count. Also, if a paper is
   not turned in at the beginning of class, in person, on the day it is due, the paper is late.

2. Attendance and participation-15% of your grade
   It is imperative that you attend class regularly and participate in discussion. Much of the
   work for this class is done through group discussion. For this reason, class attendance is
   required. Three tardies equals one absence. If you are ten minutes or more late, you will
   be counted absent.

3. Journals-15% of your grade
   You will be given a detailed description of what your journal entries should include and
   how they will be evaluated.

4. Quizzes and Homework-10% of your grade

Revisions: If you receive a grade lower than an A on essays 1, 2, or 3 you have the option
of revising your essay. The grade on this essay will be the new grade unless the new
grade is lower. The original graded paper must be turned in with the revision. I strongly
encourage you to get help from the tutors in the WAC lab or from me before you turn in
a revision.

Grading Scale: in addition to the following, a more detailed description of how your
papers and journals will be evaluated is attached.
   100-90  A
   89-80   B
   79-70   C
   69-60   D
   59-     F

Disability Accommodations: A student with a disability who qualifies for
accommodations should contact Sarah Smith, Director of Disability Services at 865-2990
(Academic Resource Center, Room 405, Monroe Hall). A student wishing to receive test
accommodations (e.g., extended test time) should provide the instructor with an official
Accommodation Form from Disability Services in advance of the scheduled test date.
**Plagiarism:** When you take any ideas or words from an outside source, you must cite that source. If you fail to do so, your work is plagiarized. The penalty for plagiarism is an F in this course and a referral to the dean for disciplinary action, including possible expulsion from the university.

**Classroom decorum:** Please do not use laptops, cell phones, IPods, etc. during class time. It is distracting to your classmates and to me if you are engaging in texting or online activities. You may be asked to leave if you choose to violate this policy.

**Daily Schedule:**

**August**
M 31 Introduction to the course

**September**
W 2 Hurston, chapters 1-5
F 4 Class cancelled
    Last day to add
M 7 Labor Day Holiday
W 9 Hurston, chapters 6-10
F 11 Hurston, chapters 11-17
    **Journal due**
    Last Day to Drop
M 14 Hurston, chapter 18-end
W 16 View *Zora Is My Name*! in class
F 18 View *Zora Is My Name*! in class
M 21 Bâ, chapters 1-14
W 23 Bâ, chapter 15-end
F 25 Marshall, books 1 and 2
    **Essay one due**
M 28 Marshall, book 3, chapters 1-7

**October**
F 2 Marshall, book 4, chapter 6-end
    **Journal due**
M 5 Head, part I
W 7 Head, part II
F 9 Morrison, pages 1-80
M 12 Morrison, pages 81-131
W 14 Morrison, pages 131-end
F 16 View Busby interview with Morrison in class
    **Essay two due**
M 19- T20 Fall Break
W 21 Dangarembga, chapters 1-3
F 23 Dangarembga, chapters 4 and 5
M 26 Dangarembga, chapters 6 and 7
W 28 Dangarembga, chapters 8-10
F 30 Nwapa, chapters 1-4
    **Journal due**
    Last day to withdraw

**November**
M 2 Nwapa, chapters 5-7
W 4 Nwapa, chapters 8-11
F  6  Nwapa, chapter 12-end
M  9  Evaristo, chapters 1-7

     Essay three due
W 11  Evaristo, chapter 8-end
F 13  Naylor, pages 1-74
M 16  Naylor, pages 75-128
W 18  Naylor, pages 129-end
F 20  Walker, pages 1-75

     Journal due
M 23  Walker, pages 75-149
W25-F27 Thanksgiving Holidays
M 30  Walker, pages 150-223

December
W 2  Walker, pages 223-295
F  4  View The Color Purple in class

     Essay four/Research paper due
M  7  View The Color Purple in class
W  9  View The Color Purple in class
F 11  Finish movie, discuss movie questions

     Essay four revision due