

August Wilson and His American Cycle - The First Five: 1904-1957



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August Wilson was the first African American playwright to have a Broadway theater bear his name, a fitting tribute to a dramatist who brought African American culture and lived experience to the stage. In this course, we will read, watch, and examine the first five plays in Wilson's American Cycle, a ten-play series representing each decade of the African American culture's 20th century. We will explore Wilson's life and the influences behind his work while focusing on *Gem of the Ocean*, Joe Turner's *Come and Gone*, Ma Rainey's *Black Bottom*, and *Seven Guitars*, tracing his powerful interpretation, celebration, and perseverance of African American culture.



YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Ladrica Menson-Furr, PhD



Ladrica Menson-Furr, PhD, is assistant dean of undergraduate programs and associate professor of African American literature. Menson-Furr is the author of *August Wilson's Fences* and *August Wilson's Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, and has published on Zora Neale Hurston and Pearl Cleage. She has led academic programs in African American studies and served as a Provost's Fellow and a Tennessee Board of Regents' Maxine Smith Fellow.

WEDNESDAYS, OCTOBER 7 THROUGH NOVEMBER 11

2 p.m. PT | 3 p.m. MT | 4 p.m. CT | 5 p.m. ET

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Wednesday, October 7
- Wednesday, October 14
- Wednesday, October 21
- Wednesday, October 28
- Wednesday, November 4
- Wednesday, November 11

For more information: Call OLLI at **(915) 747-6280** or via email at olli@utep.edu