

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

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.

[August Wilson Course Promo Video](#)

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

2pm PT | 3pm MT | 4pm CT | 5pm 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

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.