This course focuses on novels that were written during the Harlem Renaissance and contrast them with other contemporary writing during the period. Class discussions will consider how black writers, in redefining the black character in literature, influence how non-black writers construct the racial Other in their works.


Lectures and class discussions will explore how artists, using black vernacular and various other literary and visual strategies, dramatize social and psychological conflicts that occur when individuals and groups resist societal pressures to conform to hegemonic beliefs about race, sexuality and gender. (To describe a hegemonic belief formation is not to say that a majority supports this belief system about race, sexuality and gender, but to say that there appears to be no other alternative to this singular racialized-sexualized-gendered vision of society.)

I. REQUIRED TEXTS: Available at UF BOOKSTORE 1900 MUSEUM ROAD
Larsen, Nella. Quicksand and Passing (Rutgers, 1986) ISBN 0813511704
McKay, Claude Home To Harlem (Boston: Northeastern UP, 1987) ISBN 1555530249
Toomer, Jean Cane (Liveright, 1993) ISBN 0871401517

Note: Assigned and recommended texts and readings are held at the Reserve Desk on the second floor of Library West.

** Denotes the assigned reading is on reserve or it is available as PDF files which you can download from the ELECTRONIC RESERVE (ARES) section on the Smathers Library Website. Look under ENG 4936 sec. 3123 and LIT 6358 sec. 6077.

II. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
1) Pop Quizzes on weekly readings as well as film(s) screened in the previous class [20 points]
   (1pt - 3pts each)
2) Individual 5-minute oral presentation and 5 min Q&A. Instructor assigns each student their oral presentation of a required reading (5 minutes) Due Weeks 3–11 [20 points]
   The grade on the presentation is based on the following criteria:
   A. The importance of the material presented to the class. Students must make brief references to primary scenes in a particular literary work (or film) to illustrate important issues and support their argument.
   B. The clarity of the written and oral work. Here, "clarity" refers to smooth oral delivery, correct use of descriptive terminology and grammar.
   C. The student’s ability to pose important questions to the class at the end of their oral presentation. Students must introduce the argument/thesis of their oral presentation based on their assigned section.
3) Students are responsible for a typed 1-page outline of their 5-minute discussion.
   The outline is due on the day when the student presents her/his 5-minute discussion.
4) MIDTERM EXAM 60MINS WEDNESDAY, 21 OCTOBER [20 points]
5) FINAL EXAM 120MINS WEDNESDAY, 09 DECEMBER [40 points]
   The Final Exam covers all assigned readings, in-class film screenings, class discussions, and the pop quizzes.

III. ATTENDANCE
The only excusable absence is one that results from an illness that is documented by a written and signed physician report. Two non-excused absences lower the student's cumulative grade by minus 10 points. Three non-excused absences give the student an E, a failing grade for the course.
IV. LATE WORK
All written work and oral presentations are due during the class period. Students receive minus 2 points for EACH DAY (INCLUDING WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS) when any assignment is late. NOTE: A medical excuse will not be accepted to explain any late written work.

V. GRADING SCALE

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>A-</th>
<th>B+</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>B-</th>
<th>C+</th>
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<td>1.19-1.14</td>
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VI. Course Outline and Readings:

READINGS LISTED ON A PARTICULAR DAY SHOULD BE READ BEFORE THAT CLASS MEETS. POP QUIZZES WILL COVER THESE ASSIGNED READINGS AS WELL AS ANY FILMS SCREENED IN THE LAST CLASS.

* * Denotes that Readings are held on RESERVE IN LIBRARY WEST AT CHECK OUT DESK OR ON ARE S E-RESERVE

**E-RESERVE**

WEEK 1

AUG 25 T --- Course Introduction, Requirements, Questions on Assignments, Information Sheet

SCREEN --- Against the Odds: The Artists of the Harlem Renaissance (Amber Edwards dir.) 60mins.

WEEK 2

BEGIN Individual 10mins oral presentations on an assigned reading (20pts oral and 5pts for outline)


WK 3

SEP 8 T --- Jessie Redmon Fauset, Plum Bun; A Novel Without a Moral

WEEK 4

SEP 15 T --- Nella Larsen, Quicksand

WEEK 5

SEP 22 T --- Nella Larsen, Passing

WEEK 6

SEP 29 T --- Jean Toomer, Cane (Liveright, 1993)

WEEK 7

OCT 6 T --- Claude McKay, Home To Harlem and Michel de Certeau, ***Walking in the City” in The Practice of Everyday Life, ch. 7.

WEEK 8

OCT 13 T --- Wallace Thurman, The Blacker the Berry

WEEK 9

OCT 20 T --- MIDTERM EXAM (20 POINTS, 60 MINUTES)

WEEK 10


**READINGS on ARE S website or the Library West Reserve Desk:

--- Hughes, Selected Poems: "The Weary Blues" (33) and "Bound No'th Blues" (174)

1. **Hughes, "Songs Called the Blues", Pylon (Summer 1941): 143-145.


### WEEK 11


### WEEK 12

**NOV 10** T --- David Levering Lewis, *The Portable Harlem Renaissance Reader*; painters: Aaron Douglas 118-127 and Romare Bearden 138-141 and **re-read** "When the Negro Was in Vogue" comments by Langston Hughes and Wallace Thurman.

### WEEK 13


### WEEK 14

**NOV 24** T --- **NO CLASS THANKSGIVING**

### WEEK 15

**DEC 1** T --- **READING DAY FOR FINAL EXAM - NO CLASS**

### WEEK 16

**DEC 8** T --- **FINAL EXAM (40 POINTS, 120 MINUTES)**