

REID AML4242sec.22DB/AFA4931sec.23AF: Novels of the Harlem Renaissance T 6-8 MAT 0116 (12:50-3:50); Office 4318 TURL (W 4PM-5PM); TEL: 392-6650 x 246; E-MAIL: reid@ufl.edu

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.

Readings and film screenings cover such writers as Jessie Fauset, Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, James Weldon Johnson, Nella Larsen, Claude McKay, Richard Bruce Nugent, George Schuyler, Wallace Thurman, Jean Toomer, Countee Cullen, Georgia Douglas Johnson, Leopold Senghor, filmmakers as Oscar Micheaux, painters as Romare Bearden and Aaron Douglas, performers as Josephine Baker, Bricktop, Alberta Hunter, Paul Robeson, Bessie Smith, Valaida Snow and intellectuals as W. E. B. Du Bois, Alain Locke, E. Franklin Frazier, Marcus Garvey, and Charles S. Johnson.

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**

Fauset, Jessie Redmon. Plum Bun; A Novel Without a Moral (General Books, 2010) ISBN 1152565575

Huggins, Nathan Irvin Voices From the Harlem Renaissance (Oxford UP, 1994) ISBN 019509367

Larsen, Nella. Quicksand and Passing (Rutgers, 1986) ISBN 0813511704

Lewis, David Levering The Portable Harlem Renaissance Reader (Penguin, 1995) ISBN 9780140170368

Locke, Alain LeRoy. The New Negro: Voices of the Harlem Renaissance (New York: Touchstone, 1999) ISBN 0684-83831-1

McKay, Claude Home To Harlem (Boston: Northeastern UP, 1987) ISBN 1555530249

Thurman, Wallace. The Blacker the Berry (Dover Books, 2008) ISBN 0486461343

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			
A	100.00-90.00	40.00-36.00	20.00-18.00	10.00-09.00	2.00-1.80
A-	89.99-87.00	35.99-34.80	17.99-17.40	08.90-08.70	1.78-1.74
B+	86.99-84.00	34.79-33.60	17.20-16.80	08.69-08.40	1.72-1.68
B	83.99-80.00	33.59-32.00	16.60-16.00	08.39-08.00	1.66-1.60
B-	79.99-77.00	31.99-30.80	15.99-15.40	07.99-07.70	1.59-1.53
C+	76.99-74.00	30.79-29.60	15.20-14.80	07.69-07.40	1.52-1.48
C	73.99-70.00	29.59-28.00	14.79-14.00	07.39-07.00	1.47-1.40
C-	69.99-67.00	27.99-26.80	13.99-13.40	06.99-06.70	1.39-1.34
D+	66.99-64.00	26.79-25.60	13.39-12.80	06.69-06.40	1.33-1.28
D	63.99-60.00	25.59-24.00	12.79-12.00	06.39-06.00	1.27-1.20
D-	59.99-57.00	23.99-22.80	11.99-11.40	05.99-05.70	1.19-1.14
E	56.00	22.79-00.00	11.39-00.00	05.69-00.00	1.13-0.00
Cumulative		FINAL EXAM	presentation 10pts,	outline 10pts	ten or more quizzes
		40pts	MIDTERM 20pts		1-3pts for a total of 20pts

V. 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 ARES 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)

SEP 1 T --- Read David Levering Lewis, *The Portable Harlem Renaissance Reader*, pp. xiii – 9 and Alain LeRoy Locke, *The New Negro: Voices of the Harlem Renaissance*: Arnold Rampersad’s “Introduction” pp. ix-xxiii, Alain Locke’s “Forward, The New Negro” 3-16, Albert C. Barnes “The Negro Art and America” 19-25, Alain Locke’s “Negro Youth Speaks” 47-53, Zora Neale Hurston’s “Spunk” 105-111, Bruce Nugent’s “Sahdji” 113-114, and poetry by Countee Cullen pp. 129-133, Claude McKay pp. 133-135, and Georgia Johnson 146-147.

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

OCT 27 T--- Read Richard Bruce Nugent, “Smoke, Lilies and Jade” in *The Portable Harlem Renaissance Reader*, pp. 569-583. ***“Introduction” in *Gay Rebel of the Harlem Renaissance*, ed. Thomas Wirth, 1-61.

****READINGS on ARES 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.

(2) *Fine Clothes to the Jew* (1927): ***“Homesick Blues”, ***“Listen Here Blues”, ***“Po’ Boy Blues.”

(3) *The Weary Blues* (1926): pp. 23-39, 105: “The Weary Blues,” ***“Jazzonia,” ***“Negro Dancers,” ***“The Cat and the Saxophone,” ***“Young Singer,” ***“Cabaret,” ***“To Midnight Nan At Leroy’s,” ***“To A Little Lover-Lass, Dead,” ***“Harlem Night Club,” ***“Nude Young Dancer,” ***“Young Prostitute,” ***“To A Black Dancer In `The

Little Savoy',"**"Song For a Banjo Dance,"**"Blues Fantasy,"**"Lenox Ave: Midnight," and**"Danse Africaine."

WEEK 11

NOV 3 T--- Read David Levering Lewis, The Portable Harlem Renaissance Reader, pp. 76-193.

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

NOV 17 T--- Read **Cary D. Wintz, Black Culture and the Harlem Renaissance, "The Black Intelligentsia: Promoters" 102-129, "Critics" 130-153, and "Black Writers and White Promoters" 154-189. Lewis, The Portable Harlem Renaissance Reader; Paul Robeson 58-60, W. E. B. Du Bois, 3-5 and 100-105, E. Franklin Frazier 173-181, Carter G. Woodson 6-8 and Charles S. Johnson 206-217

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)