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English 4056
Special Topics in American Literature: The Harlem Renaissance
PED 106, TTh 1:00-2:20pm

Course Description

A study of the work of some of the major writers of the Harlem Renaissance of the interwar years (the 1920s and 1930s).

Requirements

In order to complete this course successfully, students are expected to do the following: attend class regularly and punctually (students with more than 3 absences should not expect to pass the course); complete the assigned readings (there will be several quizzes/tests: 20% of course grade); participate in class discussions (10% of course grade); divide in small groups to present an oral report (20% of course grade); prepare one short (3-5 pp.) paper (20% of course grade) and one substantial (5-8 pp.) paper (30% of course grade).

Papers should be word processed; they should be double-spaced and must be handed in at the beginning of the class period during which they are due. I will not accept late papers, unless you have a doctor's note.

The following required texts are available for purchase as paperbacks at Librería Mágica/Econolibros or Librería Norberto González or online from amazon.com.

- 1) *The Portable Harlem Renaissance Reader*, ed. David Lewis, Penguin Books 978-0140170368
- 2) Claude McKay, *Home to Harlem*, Northeastern UP 978-1555530242
- 3) Nella Larsen, *Passing*, Dover 978-0486437132
- 4) George Schuyler, *Black No More*, Dover 978-0486480404
- 5) Arna Bontemps, *Black Thunder*, Beacon Press 978-0807063378
- 6) Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Harper Perennial Modern Classics 978-0061120060

Other course materials will be distributed in class.

Syllabus

August	21	23	Introduction
		30	Introduction
September	04	06	Introduction, <i>Home to Harlem</i>
	11	13	<i>Home to Harlem</i>
	18	20	<i>Home to Harlem</i>
	25	26 27	<i>Passing</i>
October	02	04	<i>Passing</i>
			Essays by W.E.B. Du Bois, Carter G. Woodson, W. A. Domingo, Marcus Garvey, Mary White Ovington, James Weldon Johnson, Alain Locke in <i>The Portable Harlem Renaissance Reader</i> , pp. 3-51

First paper due on Monday, 9 October

	09	11	Poetry by Gwendolyn Bennett, Arna Bontemps, Sterling Brown, Mae Cowdery, Joseph S. Cotter, Countee Cullen in <i>The Portable Harlem Renaissance Reader</i> , pp. 221-251
	16	18	Poetry by Waring Cuney, Jessie Redmont Fauset, Langston Hughes, Fenton Johnson, Georgia Douglas Johnson, Helene Johnson in <i>The Portable Harlem Renaissance Reader</i> , pp. 252-278
	23	25	Poetry by James Weldon Johnson, Claude McKay, Anne Spencer, Jean Toomer in <i>The Portable Harlem Renaissance Reader</i> , pp. 279-307
	30		<i>Black No More</i>
November		01	<i>Black No More</i>
	06	08	<i>Black No More</i>

Essays by Langston Hughes, George S. Schuyler,
W.E.B. Du Bois in *The Portable Harlem
Renaissance Reader*, pp. 76-105

13 15 *Black Thunder*

20 *Black Thunder*
Essay by Arthur A. Schomburg in *The Portable
Harlem Renaissance Reader*, pp. 61-67

27 29 *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
*Essays by Elsie Johnson McDougald, Zora Neale
Hurstons in The Portable Harlem Renaissance
Reader, pp. 68-75, 142-155*

December 04 06 *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
Essays by Richard Wright , Charles S. Johnson in
The Portable Harlem Renaissance Reader, pp. 194-
218

Final paper due on Thursday, December 6

*Special events of relevance to the course will be scheduled as they occur and students are
required to attend them.*

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Harlem Renaissance

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