

**Spring 2021**  
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**Office Hours: M 3-4pm, TuesThurs 3-4:30pm, and by appointment**

**ENGLISH 4056**

**Special Topics in American Literature:**

**The Harlem Renaissance**

**TTh 1-2:20 pm**

**THIS COURSE WILL BE OFFERED ONLINE**

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 substantia (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*, Amistad 978-0061120060

Other course materials will be distributed in class.

### Syllabus

January	19	21	Introduction
	26	28	Introduction: Slave Trade, Slavery
February	02	04	Introduction: Civil War, Restoration, Segregatio
	09	11	<i>Home to Harlem</i>
	16	18	<i>Home to Harlem</i>
	23	25	<i>Passing</i>
March		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
	09	11	Poetry by Gwendolyn Bennett, Arna Bontemps, Sterling Brown, Mae Cowdery, Joseph S. Cotter, Countee Cullen, Waring Cuney, Jessie Redmont Fauset in <i>The Portable Harlem Renaissance Reader</i> , pp. 221-255
	16	18	Poetry by Langston Hughes, Fenton Johnson, Georgia Douglas Johnson, Helene Johnson, James Weldon Johnson, Claude McKay, Anne Spencer, Jean Toomer in <i>The Portable Harlem Renaissance Reader</i> , pp. 256-307

### **First paper due on Tuesday, 9 March**

	23	25	<i>Black No More</i>
	30		<i>Black No More</i>
April	06	08	<i>Black No More</i> Essays by Langston Hughes, George S. Schuyler, W.E.B. Du Bois in <i>The Portable Harlem Renaissance Reader</i> , pp. 76-99
	13	15	<i>Black Thunder</i>
	20	22	<i>Black Thunder</i> Essay by Arthur A. Schomburg in <i>The Portable Harlem Renaissance Reader</i> , pp. 61-67
	27	29	<i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> Essays by Elsie Johnson McDougald, Zora Neale Hurston in <i>The Portable Harlem Renaissance Reader</i> , pp. 68-75, 142-155
May	04	05	06
			<i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> Essays by Richard Wright, Charles S. Johnson in <i>The Portable Harlem Renaissance Reader</i> , pp. 194-218 Conclusion

**Final paper due on Thursday, May 13**

## Harlem Writers

### **Bontemps, Arna**

Bontemps, Arna. *The Harlem Renaissance Remembered*. New York: Dodd, 1972.

Krzemienski, Ed. "Bontemps's Black Thunder." *Explicator* 60.1 (2001): 42-44.

Lane, Suzanne. "Black Thunder's Call for a Conjure Response to American Negro Slavery." *African American Review* 37.4 (2003): 583-98.

Leroy-Frazier, Jill. "Othered Southern Modernism: Arna Bontemps's Black Thunder." *Mississippi Quarterly: The Journal of Southern Cultures* 63.1-2 (2010): 3-29.

Scott, William. "To Make Up the Hedge and Stand in the Gap: Arna Bontemps's Black Thunder." *Callaloo: A Journal of African-American and African Arts and Letters* 27.2 (2004): 522-41.

### **Hurston, Zora Neale. *Their Eyes were Watching God*.**

Bealer, Tracy L. "'The Kiss of Memory': The Problem of Love in Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*". *African American Review* 43.2-3 (2009 Summer-Fall): 311-327.

Dilbeck, Keiko. "Symbolic Representation of Identity in Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*." *Explicator* 66.2 (2008 Winter): 102-104.

Gaál-Szabó, Péter. "Zora Neale Hurston's Cultural Space and African-American Spatiality." *Hungarian Journal of English and American Studies* 17.1 (2011 Spring): 85-96.

Hynes, Kathleen. "Mad Dog: An Emergent Language of Equality in Zora Neale Hurston's 'Their Eyes Were Watching God'". *Sigma Tau Delta Review*: 7. (2010), pp. 6-15.

James, Deborah. "Resistance, Rebirth, and Renewal in Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*." Ed. Harold Bloom. *Rebirth and Renewal: Bloom's Literary Themes*. New York: Bloom's Literary Criticism, 2009. 229-238.

*Approaches to Teaching Hurston's Their Eyes Were Watching God and Other Works*. Ed. John Lowe. New York: MLA, 2009.

Schweighauser, Philipp. "The Noises of Modernist Form: John Dos Passos's *Manhattan Transfer*, Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, and the Soundscapes of Modernity." Eds. Frank Kelleter and Daniel Stein. *American Studies as Media Studies*. Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag, 2008. 47-55.

## **Cullen, Countee**

Darwin T. Turner. *In a Minor Chord: Three Afro-American Writers and Their Search for Identity*. Carbondale: Southern Illinois UP. 1971.

Ferguson, Blanche. *Countee Cullen and the Negro Renaissance*. New York: Dodd, Mead, 1966.

Molesworth, Charles. *And Bid Him Sing: A Biography of Countée Cullen*. Chicago: The U. of Chicago P., 2012.

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Reimherr, Beulah. *Countee Cullen: A Biographical and Critical Study*. College Park: Maryland UP, 1960.

Shucard, Alan. *Countee Cullen*. Boston: Twayne, 1984.

## **Hughes, Langston**

Berry, Faith. *Langston Hughes: Before and Beyond Harlem*. New York: Citadel P, 2000.

De Santis, Christopher. *Langston Hughes: A Documentary Volume*. Detroit: Thomson Gale, 2005.

Greer, Bonnie. *Langston Hughes: The Value of Contradiction*. London: Arcadia Books, 2011.

Hughes, Langston. *I Wonder as I Wander. An Autobiographical Journey*. New York: Hill and Wang, 1993.

Hughes, Langston, and Carl Van Vechten,. *Remember Me to Harlem: The Letters of Langston Hughes and Carl Van Vechten*. Ed. Emily Bernard. New York: Vintage, 2002.

Leach, Laurie. *Langston Hughes: a Biography*. Westport: Greenwood Press, 2004.

McKissack, Pat, and Frederick McKissack. *Langston Hughes: Great American Poet*. Berkeley Heights: Enslow, 2002.

Rampersad, Arnold. *The Life of Langston Hughes: 1941-1967, I Dream a World*. New York: Oxford UP, 1988.

Reid, Margaret A. "The Poetry of Langston Hughes: 'Langston Hughes: Rhetoric and Protest'." *Civil Disobedience*. Ed. Harold Bloom and Blake Hobby. New York, NY: Bloom's Literary Criticism, 2010. 151-162.

Trotman, C. James. *Langston Hughes: The Man, his Art, and his Continuing Influence*. New York: Garland, 1995.

*A Historical Guide to Langston Hughes*. Ed. Stephen C. Tracy. New York: Oxford UP, 2004.

### **Fauset, Jessie**

Allen, Carol. *Black Women Intellectuals: Strategies of Nation, Family, and Neighborhood in the Works of Pauline Hopkins, Jessie Fauset, and Marita Bonner*. New York, NY: Garland, 1998.

Baldt, Erika. "Sex and Cinema in Jessie Fauset's Plum Bun." *Interfaces: Image Texte Language* 28 (2008): 31-40.

Jones, David M. "Literary Regionalism and the Confinements of Class: A Revisionist Historical Reading of Jessie Fauset's Plum Bun." *Tamkang Review: A Quarterly of Literary and Cultural Studies* 38.1 (2007): 87-115.

Pfeiffer, Kathleen. "The Limits of Identity in Jessie Fauset's Plum Bun." *Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers* 18.1 (2001): 79-93.

Zackodnik, Teresa. "Passing Transgressions and Authentic Identity in Jessie Fauset's Plum Bun and Nella Larsen's Passing." *Literature and Racial Ambiguity*. Ed. Teresa Hubel and Neil Brooks. Amsterdam, Netherlands: Rodopi, 2002.

### **McKay, Claude**

Cooper, Wayne. *Claude McKay: Rebel Sojourner in the Harlem Renaissance: A Biography*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State UP, 1996.

Goschiak, Josh. *The Shadowed Country: Claude McKay and the Romance of the Victorians*. Piscataway: Rutgers UP, 2006.

Holcomb, Gary. *Claude McKay, Code Name Sasha: Queer Black Marxism and the Harlem Renaissance*. Gainesville: Florida UP, 2009.

McKay, Claude. *Long Way from Home*. New York: Mariner Books, 1970.

Sree Ramesh, Kotti, and Kandula Nirupa Rani. *Claude McKay: The Literary Identity from Jamaica to Harlem and Beyond*. Jefferson: McFarland, 2006.

Tillery, Tyrone. *Claude McKay: A Black Poet's Struggle for Identity*. Amherst: Massachusetts UP, 1994.

**Larsen, Nella.**

Nunes, Zita C. "Phantasmatic Brazil: Nella Larsen's Passing, American Literary Imagination, and Racial Utopianism." *Mixing Race, Mixing Culture: Inter-American Literary Dialogues*. Ed. Monika Kaup and Debra J. Rosenthal. Austin, TX: U of Texas P, 2002. 50-61.

Scruggs, Charles. "Sexual Desire, Modernity, and Modernism in the Fiction of Nella Larsen and Rudolph Fisher." *The Cambridge Companion to The Harlem Renaissance*. Ed. George Hutchinson. Cambridge, England: Cambridge UP, 2007. 155-169.

Stringer, Dorothy. *"Not Even Past": Race, Historical Trauma, and Subjectivity in Faulkner, Larsen, and Van Vechten*. New York, NY: Fordham UP, 2010.

Teague, Rita, and Colleen Claudia O'Brien. "Looking for the Other Side: Pairing Gatsby and Passing." *Making American Literatures in High School and College*. Ed. Anne Ruggles Gere, et al. Urbana, IL: National Council of Teachers of English, 2001. 137-47. *Classroom Practices in Teaching English* 31.

Blackmer, Corinne E. "The Veils of the Law: Race and Sexuality in Nella Larsen's Passing." *Race-ing Representation: Voice, History, and Sexuality*. Ed. Kostas Myrsiades and Linda Myrsiades. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 1998. 98-116.

Butler, Judith. "Passing, Queering: Nella Larsen's Psychoanalytic Challenge." *Female Subjects in Black and White: Race, Psychoanalysis, Feminism*. Ed. Elizabeth Abel, Barbara Christian, and Helene Moglen. Berkeley, CA: U of California P, 1997. 266-84.

**Locke, Alain.**

Charles, John C. "What Was Africa to Him? Alain Locke, Cultural Nationalism, and the Rhetoric of Empire during the New Negro Renaissance." *New Voices on the Harlem Renaissance: Essays on Race, Gender, and Literary Discourse*. Ed. Australia Tarver and Paula C. Barnes. Madison, NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson UP, 2005. 33-58.

Charras, Françoise. "The West Indian Presence in Alain Locke's *The New Negro* (1925)." *Temples for Tomorrow: Looking Back at the Harlem Renaissance*. Ed. Geneviève Fabre and Michel Feith. Bloomington, IN: Indiana UP, 2001. 270-87.

Dawahare, Anthony. "The Specter of Radicalism in Alain Locke's *The New Negro*." *Left of the Color Line: Race, Radicalism, and Twentieth-Century Literature of the United States*. Ed. Bill V. Mullen and James Smethurst. Chapel Hill, NC: U of North Carolina P, 2003. 67-85.

Harris, Leonard. "The Great Debate: W. E. B. Du Bois vs. Alain Locke on the Aesthetic." *Philosophia Africana: Analysis of Philosophy and Issues in Africa and the Black Diaspora* 7.1 (2004): 15-39.

Hubbard, Dolan. "Writing Culture: Alain Locke, Paris, and the Pan-African World." *MWA Review* 7.1 (1992): 50-59.

### **Schuyler, George.**

Carluccio, Dana. "The Evolutionary Invention of Race: W. E. B. Du Bois's 'Conservation' of Race and George Schuyler's *Black No More*." *Twentieth Century Literature* 55.4 (2009): 510-546.

Favor, J. Martin. "George Schuyler and Wallace Thurman: Two Satirists of the Harlem Renaissance." *The Cambridge Companion to The Harlem Renaissance*. Ed. George Hutchinson. Cambridge, England: Cambridge UP, 2007. 198-212.

Haslam, Jason. "'The Open Sesame of a Pork-Colored Skin': Whiteness and Privilege in *Black No More*." *Modern Language Studies* 32.1 (2002): 15-30.

Kuenz, Jane. "American Racial Discourse, 1900-1930: Schuyler's *Black No More*." *Novel: A Forum on Fiction* 30.2 (1997): 170-92.

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### **Toomer, Jean.**

Davis, Charles T. "Jean Toomer and the South: Region and Race as Elements within a Literary Imagination." *The Harlem Renaissance Re-Examined*. Ed. Victor A. Kramer. New York: AMS, 1987. 185-199.

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### **Thurman, Wallace**

Haizlip, Shirlee. Introduction to *The Blacker the Berry*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1996.

Thurman, Wallace. *The Collected Writings of Wallace Thurman: a Harlem Renaissance Reader*. New Brunswick: Rutgers UP, 2003.

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Ganter, Granville. "Decadence, Sexuality, and the Bohemian Vision of Wallace Thurman." *MELUS* 28.2 (2003) : 83-104.

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