English 4374-M50 —WEB
African American Literary Movements: Literature of the Harlem Renaissance

Fall 2019  Dr. V. Mitchell
Office: Patterson 417  vdmtchll@memphis.edu

Description:
You can expect to come away from the class having read—and enjoyed—major works of Harlem Renaissance literature. The Harlem Renaissance generally refers to the decade following World War I, as African American artists produced a wealth of music, literature, dance, visual art, and social discourse. Although centered in New York City, artists from all over the United States, including California, Utah, Kansas, and Tennessee contributed to the movement. Musician W.C. Handy and blues singer Alberta Hunter were from Memphis, and though the novelist and physician Rudolph “Bud” Fisher was born in Washington D.C., his parents were Memphians. In recent years, a steady stream of anthologies, memoirs, criticism, biographies, and collections of letters from the period attests to the popular and academic interest in the Harlem Renaissance. Indeed, since the Renaissance’s zenith in 1926, interest in the field has never been keener. This is an on-line or distance-learning course. As such, the course will consist of e-learning assignments rather than traditional in-class meetings.

Possible Authors:
Nella Larsen  Mae Cowdery
Zora Neale Hurston  Countee Cullen
Alain Locke  Helene Johnson
Marita Bonner  Claude McKay
W. E. B. Du Bois  Rudolph Fisher
Langston Hughes  Dorothy West
James Weldon Johnson  Marian Minus
Gwendolyn Bennett  Angelina Welde Grimké
Wallace Thurman  Jean Toomer

Course Anthology: