Description:
This course provides an in-depth study of four African American authors prior to 1940, focusing on relationships among them and comparing their aesthetics. While all four are celebrated novelists, they also excelled in additional genres: Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872-1906) in poetry and the short story; Nella Larsen (1891-1964) in the short story; James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938) in poetry; and Zora Neale Hurston (1891-1960) in the short story and essay. We will examine some of the writers’ canonical and lesser-known works. Most of the literature we will read is available either as an e-copy, which I will provide, or on-line.