

English 7/8469-M50 (WEB)
African American Women Writers

Summer 15 (June 1 – July 2)

Dr. V. Mitchell

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Description:

This course aims to detect and examine the variety of ways black women writers have reclaimed the creative power of agency, emphasizing areas of difference as well as continuity within the African American literary tradition. We will combine considerations of context, both historical and political, with rigorous textual and theoretical analyses. Though the term will go quickly (only four weeks), you can expect to come away from the class having read important fiction, poetry, and drama by black women writers, as well as a number of important essays.



Primary Course Texts:

Keckley, Elizabeth. Behind the Scenes; or, Thirty Years a Slave. 1868. U of Illinois P. ISBN: 978-0-252-07020-4.

http://www.gutenberg.org/catalog/world/readfile?fk_files=1538489

Mitchell, Verner, ed. This Waiting for Love: Helene Johnson, Poet of the Harlem Renaissance. U of Massachusetts P, 2000. ISBN: 1-55849-572-X.

Perkins-Valdez, Dolen. Wench. Amistad, 2010. ISBN: 978-006170656

Petry, Ann. The Street. 1946. Mariner Books, 1998. ISBN: 0395901499.

Other Possible Authors:

Audre Lorde	Anita Scott Coleman	Octavia Butler	Eulalie Spence
Toni Morrison	Lorraine Hansberry	Phillis Wheatley	Paule Marshall
Gloria Naylor	Alice Childress	Anna Julia Cooper	Lynn Nottage
Edwidge Danticat	Zora Neale Hurston	Harriet E. Wilson	Dorothy West
Gayl Jones	Gwendolyn Brooks	Harriet Jacobs	Suzan-Lori Parks
Shay Youngblood	Pauline E. Hopkins	Ntozake Shange	Marita Bonner
Pearl Cleage	Frances E. W. Harper	Wanda Coleman	Alice Dunbar Nelson
Alice Walker	Georgia Douglas Johnson	Tayari Jones	Maria W. Stewart
Margaret Walker	Maya Angelou	Bernice McFadden	Toni Cade Bambara
Nella Larsen	Jessie Fauset	Nikki Giovanni	Lucille Clifton
Carolyn Rodgers	Sherley Anne Williams	Anne Spencer	Marian Minus