

English 4374-M50 – WEB

African American Literary Movements: Literature of the Harlem Renaissance

Fall 2019

Office: Patterson 417

Dr. V. Mitchell

vdmitchl@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

Zora Neale Hurston

Alain Locke

Marita Bonner

W. E. B. Du Bois

Langston Hughes

James Weldon Johnson

Gwendolyn Bennett

Wallace Thurman

Mae Cowdery

Countee Cullen

Helene Johnson

Claude McKay

Rudolph Fisher

Dorothy West

Marian Minus

Angelina Welde Grimké

Jean Toomer

Course Anthology:

Venetria Patton and Maureen Honey, Eds. *Double-Take: A Revisionist Harlem Renaissance Anthology*. New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press, 2001. ISBN: 0-8135-2930-1