

## African American Literature Through the Harlem Renaissance

Fall 2021

*This book is dedicated to all Caucasians in the great republic who can trace their ancestry back ten generations and confidently assert that there are no Black leaves, twigs limbs or branches on their family trees.*

*-George Schuyler, Black No More*

This course will examine a cultural history of African American literature, film, and media. This course centers the African American experience which calls for a better understanding of African and African American centered theories such as intersectionality, Afrofuturism, and Afro-pessimism. We will study the intellectual lineage of their African heritage and explore their experiences during and after American enslavement. We will explore novels that address Afrofuturism and Afro-pessimism in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Authors like Mary Prince, Sutton Griggs, Charles W. Chesnutt, Nella Larsen, Ralph Ellison, and more will move our course through the early years of African and African Americans who wrote what it means to be Black in America and the future of the African American identity.