

ENGL 3325: Beginnings to the Harlem Renaissance

“Speculating the Future: Black Authors Writing America”

This course will examine African American literature from the founding of America to the Harlem Renaissance through the lens of Afrofuturism. As a movement, Afrofuturism seeks to unearth the missing history of people of African descent through exploring their imaginative and creative projects that forward Black culture into the future, understanding that these projects were part of resisting the power structure designed to keep them down. Thus, we will be reading texts push the bounds of reality to imagine a new possible American future. We will read both canonical texts and some others that are more on the fringes. Possible readings could include Martin Delany’s *Blake, or the Huts of America*, Pauline Hopkins’s *Of One Blood*, and Sutton Grigg’s *Hindered Hand*.

Possible Texts:

Of One Blood—Pauline Hopkins

Hindered Hand—Sutton Griggs

Blake, or the Huts of America—Martin Delany

Kindred—Octavia E. Butler

Dust Tracks on the Road—Zora Neale Hurston

Black No More—George Schuyler

Ring Shout—P. Djeli Clark