

ENGL 4372: Women Writers of the Harlem Renaissance

The Harlem Renaissance was a period of literary and artistic vibrancy for African Americans. It is marked by the outpouring of work by and about black folks. In 1925, Alain Locke coined the term the New Negro as a way to discuss and understand the emergence of a new black urban consciousness. The Harlem Renaissance is often referred to as the New Negro movement. In this course we will explore how black women writers engaged with the Harlem Renaissance. How did they respond to not only being black but being a woman? Were their concerns different than their male counterparts? Remember, Zora Neale Hurston claims that “de nigger woman is the de mule of the world.”

Tentative Course Texts:

The Complete Fiction of Nella Larsen. Passing, Quicksand, and The Stories—Nella Larsen

Plum Bun: A Novel Without A Moral—Jessie Redmon Fauset

Their Eyes Were Watching God—Zora Neale Hurston

Jonah's Gourd Vine—Zora Neale Hurston

“On Being Young, Colored, and a Woman”—Marita Bonner

“The Pot Maker”—Marita Bonner

“The Purple Flower”—Marita Bonner

“Exit, an Illusion”—Marita Bonner