

ENGL 7469/8469 Black Women Writer

Black Women's Literary Renaissance

With the publication of Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye* and Alice Walker's *The Third Life of Grange Copeland* and Toni Cade Bambara's *The Black Woman: an Anthology* in 1970 we see the beginning of a literary renaissance that will revitalize African American literature and demand that it places Black women at its core. This "community of black women writing" as Hortense Spillers calls them, write about how racial and gender injustice affect their communities, families, and selves.

We will explore how black women writers have negotiated race, class, gender, and sexual orientation through their literary production. Central themes will include: intersectionality, the nature of oppression, the politics of black womanhood and respectability, black feminist theory, and dialectical nature of black women's writing.

Tentative Course Texts:

The Bluest Eye—Toni Morrison

The Color Purple—Alice Walker

The Third Life of Grange Copeland—Alice Walker

The Black Woman: an Anthology—Toni Cade Bambara

Mama Day—Gloria Naylor

Sister Outsider—Audre Lorde

In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens—Alice Walker

The Combahee River Collective

How We Get Free. Black Feminism and The Combahee River Collective—Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor

Dawn—Octavia E. Butler

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings—Maya Angelou