

English 7468 / 8468 – WEB Literature of the Harlem Renaissance

Spring 2019
Office: Patterson 417

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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:

James Weldon Johnson
W. E. B. Du Bois
Marita Bonner
Jean Toomer
Georgia Douglas Johnson
Angelina Welde Grimké
Langston Hughes
Wallace Thurman
Anita Scott Coleman
Richard Bruce Nugent
Eulalie Spence
Marian Minus
Dorothy West

Zora Neale Hurston
Nella Larsen
Alice Dunbar-Nelson
George Schuyler
Helene Johnson
Countee Cullen
Claude McKay
Gwendolyn Bennett
Rudolph Fisher
Alain Locke
Waring Cuney
Sterling Brown
Mae Cowdery

Primary 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

Texts

1. Fisher, Rudolph. *The Conjure-Man Dies: A Mystery Tale of Dark Harlem*. 1932. University of Michigan Press, 1992. ISBN: 978-0472064922.

Also available free online: <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015029157438;view=1up;seq=1>

2. Hughes, Langston. *The Big Sea*. 1940. Hill & Wang, 1993. ISBN: 0-8090-1549-8.

3. Johnson, James Weldon. *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man*. 1912. Penguin, 1990. ISBN: 0-14-018402-3. Also available free online: <http://www.ibiblio.org/eldritch/jwj/auto.htm>

4. Larsen, Nella. *Quicksand*. 1928. Rutgers UP, 2001. ISBN: 0-8135-1170-4.

5. Patton, Venetria, and Maureen Honey, eds. *Double-Take: A Revisionist Harlem Renaissance Anthology*. Rutgers UP, 2001. ISBN: 0-8135-2930-1.