

“A Change Gone Come”

English 4373.M50: African American Authors since the Harlem Renaissance

Spring 2020

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Inspired by the lyrics and theme of Sam Cooke’s seminal “A Change Gone Come,” in this course we will study selected works by James Baldwin, Toni Morrison, and August Wilson. Germane to this study will be an examination of each author-activist’s unique representations of African American culture and their particular perspectives on the themes of identity, the American dream in contrast to the African American reality, and the concept of change. Moreover, we will examine the subjects intersectionality, class, gender and their presence within post-modern African American literature.

Texts (partial listing):

Baldwin, James. Blues for Mister Charlie. Vintage (1996). ISBN: 978-0679761785

---. If Beale Street Could Talk. Vintage (2006). ISBN: 978-03707275936

---. The Fire Next Time. Vintage (1992). ISBN: 978-0679744726

Morrison, Toni. Beloved. Vintage (2004). ISBN: 1400033411

---. Song of Solomon. Vintage (2004). ISBN: 1400033423

---. God Bless the Child. Vintage (2016). ISBN: 0307740927

Wilson, August. Gem of the Ocean. Theatre Communications Group (2006).

ISBN: 1559362804.

---. Fences. Plume (1996). ISBN: 0452

---. King Hedley II. Theatre Communications Group (2005). ISBN: 155936260X

---. Radio Golf. Theatre Communications Group (2008). ISBN: 1559363088.