

English 7468 / 8468 – M50 / WEB

Literature of the Harlem Renaissance

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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.



Primary Texts:

1. Rudolph Fisher. *The Conjure-Man Dies: A Mystery Tale of Dark Harlem*. 1932. University of Michigan Press, 1992. ISBN: 978-0472064922.
Also available free: <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015029157438;view=1up;seq=1>
2. Langston Hughes. *The Big Sea*. 1940. Hill & Wang, 1993. ISBN: 0-8090-1549-8.
3. James Weldon Johnson. *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. Nella Larsen. *Quicksand*. 1928. Rutgers UP, 2001. ISBN: 0-8135-1170-4.
5. Venetria Patton and Maureen Honey, Eds. *Double-Take: A Revisionist Harlem Renaissance Anthology*. Rutgers University Press, 2001. ISBN: 0-8135-2930-1.

Possible Authors:

James Weldon Johnson	Zora Neale Hurston	Georgia Douglas Johnson	Helene Johnson
W. E. B. Du Bois	Nella Larsen	Angelina Welde Grimké	Countee Cullen
Alice Dunbar-Nelson	Marita Bonner	Langston Hughes	Claude McKay
Jean Toomer	Wallace Thurman	Gwendolyn Bennett	Rudolph Fisher
Alain Locke	Waring Cuney	Mae Cowdery	Eulalie Spence
Sterling Brown	Bruce Nugent	Marian Minus	Dorothy West