The seminar will critically survey James Baldwin’s literary work and political essays, as well as review selected biographies that explore Baldwin’s life in the United States, France, and Turkey. Baldwin was engaged in the socio-political world that surrounded and sometimes consumed his artistic and moral energies that brought him to become active in the U.S. Civil Rights movement and international concern the construction of nation, race, and sexuality. One critic wrote of Baldwin in these words: “Following publication of Notes of a Native Son and The Fire Next Time, James Baldwin’s literary star approached its peak during the turbulent 1960s. His burgeoning role as celebrity, prophet, and leader heaped an unsustainable amount of pressure and responsibility onto his slight frame in an American landscape that doubly punished Baldwin for being both black and gay, and he often turned to Turkey for sanctuary.” This seminar reveals the artistry, compassion, and moral commitment of one of America’s greatest writers.

REQUIREMENTS:
Ten double-space, 12 font, two-page, weekly reaction papers to readings and film screenings 20%
Two 10-12-minute oral presentations on weekly readings and film screenings 20%
One Conference Paper Abstract Due WEEK 8, OCT. 16 10%
One 7-9-page conference paper in-progress (20%), and a 2-page annotated bibliography (10%) 30%
One oral presentation (10-15mins.) of the conference paper 20%

REQUIRED TEXTS:

WK 1  COURSE INTRODUCTION
AUG 28 R--- SCREEN:
James Baldwin, THE PRICE OF THE TICKET

WK 2  Early Writings From Paris
SEP 04 R---READ: Baldwin, Early Novels & Stories-Go Tell It On the Mountain (1953), and Campbell, Talking at the Gates, ‘Author’s Note’, Chapters 1 and 2.

WK 3  Early Writings From Paris

WK 4  PURSUIT OF HETERONORMATIVE & MIDDLE-CLASS RESPECTABILITY
SEP 18 R---READ: Baldwin, Giovanni’s Room (1956), and Campbell, Talking at the Gates, Chapter 8 through Chapter 13, and Baldwin, Collected Essays, p.231-“The Male Prison”, p.269-“The Black BoyLooks at the White Boy”. Chapters 3 – 9.

WK 5  THE NORTHERN Ghetto: HARLEM I / BKS 1-2 BALDWIN, Just Above My Head
WK 6

THE NORTHERN GHETTO: HARLEM II / BKS 3-4 BALDWIN, Just Above My Head


WK 7

RACE, SEGREGATION AND THE SOUTH I / BK 5 BALDWIN, Just Above My Head


WK 8

RACE, SEGREGATION AND THE SOUTH II

DUE: Conference Paper ABSTRACTS


VIEW: Stanley Nelson dir. FREDOM RIDERS (120m) - SCREEN: You may retrieve this item directly by visiting https://ares.uflib.ufl.edu/ares.dll?Action=10&Form=50&Value=127775

WK 9

RACE, SEGREGATION AND THE SOUTH III


WK 10

BALDWIN ON FLUIDITY, CHANGE, AND MULTIDIMENSIONAL SEXUALITY


WK 11

IN SEARCH OF BALDWIN: FLUIDITY, CHANGE, AND MULTIDIMENSIONAL SEXUALITY

NOV 06 R --- READ: Shay Youngblood, Black Girl in Paris.

WK 12

No Class–Work on Conference Paper (meetings by appointment only 10am-12pm 4318 TUR)

NOV 13 R ---

WK 13

ORAL PRESENTATIONS ON CONFERENCE PAPER (12-15mins.)

NOV 20 R ---

WK 14

27 NOVEMBER - THANKSGIVING BREAK

WK 15

FINAL CLASS

DEC 04 R ---

TO BE ANNOUNCED