

**AML4242 sec.3A28/AFA4931sec.08ED: Novels of the Harlem Renaissance MWF 4<sup>TH</sup> (10:40- 11:30) TUR2342 Office 4318 TURL (W 6<sup>TH</sup> 12:50-1:40); TEL: 392-6650 x 246; E-MAIL: reid@ufl.edu**

This course focuses on novels that were written during the Harlem Renaissance and contrast them with other contemporary writing during the period. Class discussions will consider how black writers, in redefining the black character in literature, influence how non-black writers construct the racial Other in their works.

Readings and film screenings cover such writers as Jessie Fauset, Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, James Weldon Johnson, Nella Larsen, Claude McKay, Richard Bruce Nugent, George Schuyler, Wallace Thurman, Jean Toomer, Countee Cullen, Georgia Douglas Johnson, Leopold Senghor, filmmakers as Oscar Micheaux, painters as Romare Bearden and Aaron Douglas, performers as Josephine Baker, Bricktop, Alberta Hunter, Paul Robeson, Bessie Smith, Valaida Snow and intellectuals as W. E. B. Du Bois, Alain Locke, E. Franklin Frazier, Marcus Garvey, and Charles S. Johnson.

Lectures and class discussions will explore how artists, using black vernacular and various other literary and visual strategies, dramatize social and psychological conflicts that occur when individuals and groups resist societal pressures to conform to hegemonic beliefs about race, sexuality and gender. (To describe a hegemonic belief formation is not to say that a majority supports this belief system about race, sexuality and gender, but to say that there *appears* to be no other alternative to this singular racialized-sexualized-gendered vision of society.)

### **I. REQUIRED TEXTS:** Available at UF BOOKSTORE 1900 MUSEUM ROAD

Fauset, Jessie Redmon. Plum Bun: A Novel Without a Moral (General Books, 2010) ISBN 1152565575

Huggins, Nathan Irvin Voices From the Harlem Renaissance (Oxford UP, 1994) ISBN 019509367

Larsen, Nella. Quicksand and Passing (Rutgers, 1986) ISBN 0813511704

Lewis, David Levering The Portable Harlem Renaissance Reader (Penguin, 1995) ISBN 9780140170368

Locke, Alain LeRoy. The New Negro: Voices of the Harlem Renaissance (New York: Touchstone, 1999) ISBN 0684-83831-1

McKay, Claude Home To Harlem (Boston: Northeastern UP, 1987) ISBN 1555530249

Thurman, Wallace. The Blacker the Berry (Dover Books, 2008) ISBN 0486461343

Toomer, Jean Cane (Liveright, 1993) ISBN 0871401517

**Note: Assigned and recommended texts and readings are held at the Reserve Desk on the second floor of Library West.**

**\*\* Denotes the assigned reading is on reserve or it is available as PDF files which you can download from the ELECTRONIC RESERVE (ARES) section on the Smathers Library Website. Look under ENG 4936 sec. 3123 and LIT 6358 sec. 6077.**

### **II. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

1) Pop Quizzes on weekly readings as well as film(s) screened in the previous class **[20 points]**  
(1pt - 3pts each)

2) Individual 5-minute oral presentation and 5 min Q&A. Instructor assigns each student their oral presentation of a required reading (5 minutes) Due Weeks 3–11 **[10 points]**

The presentation grade is based on the following criteria:

A. The importance of the material presented to the class. Students must make brief references to primary scenes in a particular literary work (or film) to illustrate important issues and support their argument.

B. The clarity of the written and oral work. Here, "clarity" refers to smooth oral delivery, correct use of descriptive terminology and grammar.

C. The student's ability to pose important questions to the class at the end of their oral presentation. Students must introduce the argument/thesis of their oral presentation based on their assigned section.

3) Students are responsible for a typed 1-page outline of their 5-minute discussion **[10pts]**.

The outline is due on the day when the student presents her/his 5-minute discussion.

4) **MIDTERM EXAM 60MINS MONDAY, 14 OCTOBER [20 points]**

5) **FINAL EXAM 60MINS WEDNESDAY, 4 DECEMBER [40 points]**

The Final Exam covers all assigned readings, in-class film screenings, class discussions, and the pop quizzes.

### **III. ATTENDANCE**

The only excusable absence is one that results from an illness that is documented by a written and signed physician report. Two non-excused absences lower the student's cumulative grade by **minus 10 points**. Three non-excused absences give the student **an E, a failing grade for the course**.

#### **IV. LATE WORK**

All written work and oral presentations are due during the class period. Students receive minus 2 points for EACH DAY (INCLUDING WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS) when any assignment is late. **NOTE:** A medical excuse will not be accepted to explain any late written work.

V.		GRADING SCALE			
A	100.00-90.00	40.00-36.00	20.00-18.00	10.00-09.00	2.00-1.80
A-	89.99-87.00	35.99-34.80	17.99-17.40	08.90-08.70	1.78-1.74
B+	86.99-84.00	34.79-33.60	17.20-16.80	08.69-08.40	1.72-1.68
B	83.99-80.00	33.59-32.00	16.60-16.00	08.39-08.00	1.66-1.60
B-	79.99-77.00	31.99-30.80	15.99-15.40	07.99-07.70	1.59-1.53
C+	76.99-74.00	30.79-29.60	15.20-14.80	07.69-07.40	1.52-1.48
C	73.99-70.00	29.59-28.00	14.79-14.00	07.39-07.00	1.47-1.40
C-	69.99-67.00	27.99-26.80	13.99-13.40	06.99-06.70	1.39-1.34
D+	66.99-64.00	26.79-25.60	13.39-12.80	06.69-06.40	1.33-1.28
D	63.99-60.00	25.59-24.00	12.79-12.00	06.39-06.00	1.27-1.20
D-	59.99-57.00	23.99-22.80	11.99-11.40	05.99-05.70	1.19-1.14
E	56.00	22.79-00.00	11.39-00.00	05.69-00.00	1.13-0.00
<b>Cumulative</b>		<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>presentation 10pts,</b>	<b>outline 10pts</b>	<b>ten or more quizzes</b>
		<b>40pts</b>	<b>MIDTERM 20pts</b>	<b>1-3pts for a total of 20pts</b>	

#### **V. Course Outline and Readings:**

READINGS LISTED ON A PARTICULAR DAY SHOULD BE READ **BEFORE** THAT CLASS MEETS. POP QUIZZES WILL COVER THESE ASSIGNED READINGS AS WELL AS ANY FILMS SCREENED IN THE LAST CLASS.

**\* \*Denotes that Readings are held on RESERVE IN LIBRARY WEST AT CHECK OUT DESK OR ON ARES E-RESERVE**

#### **Plum Bun WEEK 1 COURSE INTRODUCTION**

AUG 21 W---Course Introduction, Requirements, Questions on Assignments, Information Sheet

**SCREEN---***Against the Odds: The Artists of the Harlem Renaissance* (Amber Edwards dir.) 60mins. [20mins]

#### **TASTEMAKERS OF THE RENAISSANCE: SEEKING RESPECTABILITY**

AUG 23 F --- Read David Levering Lewis, *The Portable Harlem Renaissance Reader*, pp. xiii – 9 and Alain LeRoy Locke, *The New Negro: Voices of the Harlem Renaissance*: Arnold Rampersad’s “Introduction” pp. ix-xxiii, Alain Locke’s “Forward, The New Negro” 3-16.

**SCREEN---***Against the Odds: The Artists of the Harlem Renaissance* (Amber Edwards dir.) 60mins. [20mins]

#### **WEEK 2 TASTEMAKERS OF THE RENAISSANCE: SEEKING RESPECTABILITY**

**BEGIN Individual 10mins oral presentations on an assigned reading (20pts oral and 5pts for outline)**

AUG 26 M---Albert C. Barnes “The Negro Art and America” 19-25, Alain Locke “Negro Youth Speaks” 47-53.

**SCREEN---***Against the Odds: The Artists of the Harlem Renaissance* (Amber Edwards dir.) 60mins. [20mins]

AUG 28 W---Zora Neale Hurston’s “Spunk” 105-111 and Bruce Nugent’s “Sahdji” 113-114.

AUG 30 F---Poetry by Countee Cullen pp. 129-133, Claude McKay pp. 133-135, and Georgia Johnson 146-147.

#### **WEEK 3 BLACK FEMALE WRITERS OF THE RENAISSANCE – Jessie Fauset**

Jessie Redmon Fauset, *Plum Bun : A novel Without a Moral*

SEP 2 M---HOLIDAY. READ: Plum Bun : Deborah McDowell’s “Introduction”, pp. ix- xxxiii and the ‘HOME’ section, pp. 11-83.

SEP 4 W--- READ: Plum Bun: ‘MARKET’. \_\_\_\_\_.

SEP 6 F--- READ: Plum Bun: 'PLUM BUN'. \_\_\_\_\_

**WEEK 4**

SEP 9 M--- READ: Plum Bun: 'HOME AGAIN'. \_\_\_\_\_

SEP 11 W--- READ: Plum Bun: 'MARKET IS DONE'. \_\_\_\_\_

SEP 13 F--- DISCUSSION ON Jessie Fauset: *THEMES, ISSUES AND LITERARY FORM*

**WEEK 5 BLACK FEMALE WRITERS OF THE RENAISSANCE – Nella Larsen**

SEP 16 M--- Nella Larsen, Quicksand, Chapter 1-12. \_\_\_\_\_

SEP 18 W--- Nella Larsen, Quicksand, Chapter 13-18. \_\_\_\_\_

SEP 20 F--- Nella Larsen, Quicksand, Chapter 19-25. --- DISCUSSION ON Nella Larson: *THEMES, ISSUES AND LITERARY FORM*

**WEEK 6 PASSING FOR WHOM AND FOR WHAT: COLOR CONSCIOUSNESS**

SEP 23 M--- Nella Larsen, Passing, Part One: 'Encounter'. \_\_\_\_\_

SEP 25 W--- Nella Larsen, Passing, Part Two: 'Re-Encounter'. \_\_\_\_\_

SEP 27 F--- Nella Larsen, Passing, Part Two: 'Finale'. --- DISCUSSION ON Nella Larson: *THEMES, ISSUES AND LITERARY FORM*

**WEEK 7 MODERNIST LITERARY FORM (S): JEAN TOOMER**

SEP 30 M--- Jean Toomer, Cane (Liveright, 1993), Introduction, pp. 1-27: 'Karintha', 'Reapers', 'Becky', 'Cotton Song', 'Carma', 'Song of the Son', 'Georgia Dusk', 'Fern', 'Esther', 'Portrait in Georgia'. \_\_\_\_\_

OCT 2 W--- Jean Toomer, Cane (Liveright, 1993), pp. 28-67: 'Blood-Burning Moon', 'Seventh Street', 'Rhobert', 'Avey', 'Theater', 'Box Seat'. \_\_\_\_\_

OCT 4 F--- Jean Toomer, Cane (Liveright, 1993), pp. 68-116 : 'Prayer', 'Harvest Song', 'Bona and Paul', 'Kabnis'. \_\_\_\_\_

**WEEK 8 LIBERTINES, DECADENTS IN THE JAZZ AGE: WALLACE THURMAN**

OCT 7 M---Wallace Thurman, The Blacker the Berry Chapters: 'Emma Lou', 'Harlem', 'Alva'. \_\_\_\_\_

OCT 9 W---Wallace Thurman, The Blacker the Berry Chapters: 'Rent Party', 'Pyrrhic Victory'. \_\_\_\_\_

OCT 11 F---HOMECOMING

**WEEK 9 LIBERTINES, DECADENTS, & HAVING FUN IN THE JAZZ AGE: CLAUDE MCKAY**

OCT 14 M--- **MIDTERM EXAM (20 POINTS, 60 MINUTES)**

OCT 16 W---Claude McKay, Home To Harlem 'Foreword to 1987 Edition', Chapter 1-2: 'Going Back Home', 'Arrival' and Michel de Certeau, \*\*\*"Walking in the City" in *The Practice of Everyday Life*, ch. 7. \_\_\_\_\_

OCT 18 F---Claude McKay, Home To Harlem Chapter 3-6: 'Zeddy', 'Congo Rose', 'On the Job Again', 'Myrtle Avenue'. \_\_\_\_\_

**WEEK 10 LIBERTINES, DECADENTS, & HAVING FUN IN THE JAZZ AGE: CLAUDE MCKAY**

OCT 21 M---Claude McKay, Home To Harlem Chapter 7-11: \_\_\_\_\_  
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OCT 23 W---Claude McKay, Home To Harlem Chapter 12-14: \_\_\_\_\_  
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OCT 25 F---Claude McKay, Home To Harlem Chapter 15-18: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**WEEK 11 RICHARD NUGENT, LANGSTON HUGHES, LIBERTINE/DECADENT, JAZZ AGE**

OCT 28 M--- Claude McKay, Home To Harlem Chapter 19-21. \_\_\_\_\_  
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OCT 30 W--- Read Richard Bruce Nugent, "Smoke, Lilies and Jade" in The Portable Harlem Renaissance Reader, pp. 569-583. \*\*\*"Introduction" in Gay Rebel of the Harlem Renaissance, ed. Thomas Wirth, 1-61.  
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NOV 1 F--- **\*\*READINGS on ARES website or the Library West Reserve Desk:**  
--- Hughes, *Selected Poems*: "The Weary Blues" (33) and "Bound No'th Blues" (174)  
(1) \*\*Hughes, "Songs Called the Blues", *Pylon* (Summer 1941): 143-145.  
(2) *Fine Clothes to the Jew* (1927): \*\*\*"Homesick Blues", \*\*\*"Listen Here Blues", \*\*\*"Po' Boy Blues."  
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**WEEK 12 LANGSTON HUGHES: LIBERTINE/DECADENT IN THE JAZZ AGE**

NOV 4 M---(3) The Weary Blues (1926): pp. 23-39, 105: "The Weary Blues," \*\*\*"Jazzonia," \*\*\*"Negro Dancers," \*\*\*"The Cat and the Saxophone," \*\*\*"Young Singer," \*\*\*"Cabaret," \*\*\*"To Midnight Nan At Leroy's," \*\*\*"To A Little Lover-Lass, Dead," \*\*\*"Harlem Night Club," \*\*\*"Nude Young Dancer," \*\*\*"Young Prostitute," \*\*\*"To A Black Dancer In 'The Little Savoy'," \*\*\*"Song For a Banjo Dance," \*\*\*"Blues Fantasy," \*\*\*"Lenox Ave: Midnight," and \*\*\*"Danse Africaine." \_\_\_\_\_  
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NOV 6 W---Read David Levering Lewis, *The Portable Harlem Renaissance Reader*, pp. 76-193.  
---**SCREEN: BROTHER TO BROTHER (Rodney Evans dir/writer, 2004 94 mins) [20mins]**

NOV 8 F---**SCREEN: BROTHER TO BROTHER (Rodney Evans dir/writer, 2004 94 mins) [50mins]**

**WEEK 13 BLACK INTELLECTUALS & ARTISTS**

NOV 11 M---David Levering Lewis, The Portable Harlem Renaissance Reader; painters: **Aaron Douglas** pp. 118-127; **Romare Bearden** pp. 138-141; and re-read "When the Negro Was in Vogue" comments by **Langston Hughes** pp. 76-80, and Wallace Thurman.

---**SCREEN: BROTHER TO BROTHER (Rodney Evans dir/writer, 2004 94 mins) [24mins]**

NOV 13 W--- Read \*\*Cary D. Wintz, Black Culture and the Harlem Renaissance, Chapter 6 "The Black Intelligentsia: Promoters" 102-129, Chapter 7 "The Black Intelligentsia: "Critics" 130-153. \_\_\_\_\_  
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NOV 15 F---Read \*\*Cary D. Wintz, Black Culture and the Harlem Renaissance, Chapter 8 "Black Writers and White Promoters" 154-189. \_\_\_\_\_  
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**WEEK 14 BLACK INTELLECTUALS & ARTISTS**

NOV 18 M--- Lewis, The Portable Harlem Renaissance Reader: **Paul Robeson** pp. 58-60, **W. E. B. Du Bois** pp. 3-5 and pp. 100-105, **E. Franklin Frazier** pp. 173-181.

NOV 20 W--- Lewis, The Portable Harlem Renaissance Reader: **Carter G. Woodson** pp. 6-8 and Charles S. Johnson 206-217

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**WEEK 15      NOV 25 MON – 29 FRI    NO CLASS THANKSGIVING**

NOV    22 F---

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**WEEK 16      DEC 2 M      READING DAY FOR FINAL EXAM - NO CLASS**

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**WEEK 16      DEC 4 W      FINAL EXAM (40 POINTS, 60 MINUTES)**

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“Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.”

