

AML 4311 sec. 24874: The World of Langston Hughes: Through Critical Race Theory T4 (10:40-11:30), R 4-5 (10:40-12:35) Spring 2021

Office HOURS ONLINE, Tuesday 1:55 – 2:45 PM and Thursday 1:55-2:45 PM by appointment only

This course employs an interdisciplinary approach that requires students to familiarize themselves with Langston Hughes' literary and sociopolitical writings, and apply critical race theory, which scholars as Frank B. Wilderson III, Jared Sexton, Saidiya Hartman, Calvin Warren, and essayists like Ta-Nehisi Coates and James Baldwin employ, that signal a burgeoning Afro-Pessimism and or postNegritude moment where the postracial fantasy of neoliberal gestures have evaporated with the departure of President Barack Hussein Obama.

Discussion topics include the Harlem Renaissance, African American literature, the blues tradition in poetry and life, and the international sociopolitical climate of our quotidian life. In discussing the literary work and political life of Langston Hughes, the seminar participants will critically assess how Hughes fared as an American writer and social critic and how critical race theory might reveal or deny the persistence of anti-black violence in words and deeds. How does Hughes' writings symbolically expose and fervently articulate a "Black Lives Matter" awareness and endgame?

1. REQUIRED TEXTS:

Berry, Faith. Langston Hughes: Before and Beyond Harlem

Berry, Faith, ed. Good Morning Revolution: Uncollected Writings of Langston Hughes.

Hughes, Langston. The Big Sea: An Autobiography.

_____. I Wonder as I Wander: An Autobiographical Journey.

_____. Selected Poems of Langston Hughes.

_____. Five Plays by Langston Hughes

_____. The Ways of White Folks.

_____. The Panther and the Lash.: Poems of Our Times.

_____. Good Morning Revolution: Uncollected Writings of Langston Hughes.

Note: Assigned and recommended texts and readings are held at the Reserve Desk of Library West. Check the Reserve List for this course to see if any assigned essays or plays are available as PDF files and Electronic Streaming on ARES (ELECTRONIC RESERVE) section on Library West Website(INDICATED BY THE ASTERISK '*'). Look under Reid and this course's section number.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

I.

1) Ten 2-page reaction papers on weekly readings as well as film(s) screened in the previous class @ 2pts each due every Monday at 8:00 am during Week 3 (25 January) – Week 13 (5 April). **[20 points]**

2) Two 5-minute oral presentation and 5 min Q&A. Instructor assigns each student their oral presentation that covers an assign reading. Due Week 3 (26 January) – Week 12 (1 April) **@10 points each. [20 points]**

On the day when a student delivers an oral presentation, they do not submit a reaction paper.

II. Presentation Grade is based on the following criteria:

1. 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.
2. The clarity of the written and oral work. Here, "clarity" refers to smooth oral delivery, correct use of descriptive terminology and grammar.
3. 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.

III. Students are responsible for two typed 1-page outline of their 5-minute oral presentation **@10 points each [20 points]**. The outline is due on the day when the student presents her/his 5-minute discussion.

IV. MIDTERM EXAM THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY 50MINS [20 points]

V. 15-minute Group Dramatic / Poetry Performance Tues. 13, Thurs. 15, 20 April (WK 14-15) [20 points]. 5-minute Q&A on the DRAMATIC PRESENTATION.

VI. 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.

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 the late delivery of any written assignment or film/video project.

GRADING SCALE

A	100.00-90.00	20.00-18.00	10.00-09.00	2.00-1.80
A-	89.99-87.00	17.99-17.40	08.90-08.70	1.78-1.74
B+	86.99-84.00	17.20-16.80	08.69-08.40	1.72-1.68
B	83.99-80.00	16.60-16.00	08.39-08.00	1.66-1.60
B-	79.99-77.00	15.99-15.40	07.99-07.70	1.59-1.53
C+	76.99-74.00	15.20-14.80	07.69-07.40	1.52-1.48
C	73.99-70.00	14.79-14.00	07.39-07.00	1.47-1.40

C-	69.99-67.00	13.99-13.40	06.99-06.70	1.39-1.34
D+	66.99-64.00	13.39-12.80	06.69-06.40	1.33-1.28
D	63.99-60.00	12.79-12.00	06.39-06.00	1.27-1.20
D-	59.99-57.00	11.99-11.40	05.99-05.70	1.19-1.14
E	56.00-00.00	11.39-00.00	05.69-05.30	1.13-0.00

Cumulative **Midterm** 2 presentations 10 reaction papers @2pts. each
performance/poetry & 2 outlines
20pts each @10pts. each

1. 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. **ALL READINGS FOR WEEK TWO MUST BE READ BEFORE CLASS MEETS**

*** Denotes that Readings are held on RESERVE IN LIBRARY WEST AT CHECK OUT DESK OR ON ARES E-RESERVE AS DOWNLOADABLE 'PDFs' [ACROBAT READER FILES]**

WK 1

JAN 12 T-- **Course Introduction:** Requirements, Questions on Assignments.

JAN 14 R-- **NO CLASS VIEW IN LIBRARY**—***VOICES AND VISIONS 6: LANGSTON HUGHES THE DREAM KEEPER** 60MINS. **ON ELECTRONIC RESERVE IN LIBRARY WEST. READ:** Langston Hughes, **The Big Sea** (1940) Section 1: *Twenty-One* and Section 2: *The Big Sea* and **Christina Sharpe, “The Hold” in *In the Wake: On Blackness and Being* (Duke UP, 2016): 68-101.

WK 2 AUTOBIOGRAPHY AS HISTORY 1902 TO 1930 THE EXILE'S MANY RETURNS: A TRAVELOGUE OF ANECDOTES

JAN 19 T-- **Langston Hughes, The Big Sea (1940) Section 1: Twenty-One and Section 2: The Big Sea**

JAN 21 R— **CLASS PRESENTATIONS ON READINGS:**

WK 3 AUTOBIOGRAPHY AS HISTORY 1902 TO 1930 THE EXILE'S MANY RETURNS: A TRAVELOGUE OF ANECDOTES

JAN 26 T— Langston Hughes, **The Big Sea** (1940) Section 3: *Black Renaissance*

JAN 28 R— **CLASS PRESENTATIONS ON READINGS:**

WK 4 POST-WORLD WAR I, THE TWENTIES and THE NEW NEGRO

FEB 02 T— *Berry, **Langston Hughes: Before and Beyond Harlem**, pp. 185-6, and p. 347, fn. 10.

- (1) George Schuyler, "Negro Hokum" The Nation (6/16/1926): 662-663.
- (2) Hughes, "The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain" The Nation (6/23/1926): 692.
- (3) Hughes, "American Art or Negro Art" The Nation (8/18/1926): 151.
- (4) Hughes, "Harlem Literati in the Twenties", Saturday Review (6/22/40): 13-14.

FEB 04 R— Hughes, **Selected Poems**: "Dream Variations" (14), "The Negro Speaks of Rivers" (4), "Cross" (158), "Harlem Night Song" (61), "When Sue Wears Red" (68), "Natcha" (72), "Mother to Son" (187).

***READINGS ON ELECTRONIC RESERVE in PDF format:**

- (5) Hughes, **The Weary Blues** (1926): ****"Introducing Langston Hughes To the Reader," and ****"Poem," "Dream Variation," "The Negro Speaks of Rivers (To W.E.B. Du Bois)," "Cross," ****"The Jester," "Harlem Night Song," ****"Songs To The Dark Virgin," "When Sue Wears Red," ****"Pierrot," "Natcha," ****"Sick Room," ****"To The Dark Mercedes of `El Palacio De Amor'," ****"Poem," ****"Lament For Dark Peoples," ****"Afraid," ****"Disillusion," ****"The White Ones," "Mother To Son," and ****"Epilogue." "Water-Front Streets", "Port Town", "Young Sailor," and "Poem (To F.S.)," pp. 71, 74, 77, 95**************************

CLASS PRESENTATIONS ON READINGS:

WK 5

VIEW--LOOKING FOR LANGSTON (Isaac Julien, 1989) 45mins.

FEB 09 T— **VIEW: LOOKING FOR LANGSTON** (Isaac Julien, 1989) 45mins. **READ:** *Langston Hughes, "Blessed Assurance" (1963) in *Black Like Us-A Century of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual African American Fiction*, eds. Devon W. Carbado, Dwight A. McBride, and Donald Weise. San Francisco, Cleis Press, 2002, pp. 56-62

FEB 11 R— **CLASS PRESENTATIONS ON FILM & READINGS:**

WK 6

THE BLUES TRADITION: The Sacred and the Profane

FEB 16 T— Hughes, **Selected Poems**: "The Weary Blues" (33) and "Bound No'th Blues" (174)

***READINGS ON RESERVE:** Amritjit Singh et al., **The Harlem Renaissance: Revaluations**, read essays by Kathy J. Ogren, "Controversial Sounds" pp. 159-184 and Joseph McLaren, "Early Recognitions" pp. 195-208.

****POEMS AND ARTICLES ON ELECTRONIC RESERVE:**

- (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."******

FEB 18 R— (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."******************************

CLASS PRESENTATIONS ON READINGS:

WK 7 SHORT STORIES

FEB 23 T— Hughes, **The Ways of White Folks** (1934) : 'Cora Unashamed', 'Slave on the Block', 'Home', 'Passing', 'The Blues I'm Playing'

FEB 25 R— Hughes, **The Ways of White Folks** (1934) : 'Red-Headed Baby', 'Poor Little Black Fellow', 'Little Dog'. "Recharge Days", February 25 and March 24

CLASS PRESENTATIONS ON READINGS:

WK 8 MIDTERM EXAMINATION (50mins, 20pts)

MAR 02 T— Hughes, The Ways of White Folks (1934) : ‘Mother and Child’, ‘One Christmas Eve’, ‘Father and Son’.

MAR 04 R— **MIDTERM EXAMINATION (50mins, 20pts)**

WK 9 CREATING THEATER FOR A BLACK AUDIENCE: SOCIAL DRAMA and THE LANGUAGE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN SATIRE

MAR 09 T— Hughes, Five Plays by Langston Hughes: ‘Mulatto’ (1935) and ‘Soul Gone Home’ (1937)

*ON RESERVE: Abramson, Negro Playwrights in the American Theatre: "The Thirties" ch. III, pp. 44-88.

MAR 11 R— **CLASS PRESENTATIONS ON READINGS**:

WK 10 URBAN FOLK COMEDY: SPEECH AS INVENTIVE, PLAYFUL AND COMBATIVE

MAR 16 T— Five Plays by Langston Hughes: ‘Little Ham’ (‘35), ‘Simply Heavenly’ (‘56) and ‘Tambourines to Glory’ (‘56)

Hughes, Selected Poems: ‘Note on Commercial Theatre,’ p. 190.

MAR 18 R— **CLASS PRESENTATIONS ON READINGS**:

WK 11

MAR 23 T— Hughes, I Wonder As I Wander (1956) Chapters 1-2, 6-8 and **Angela I. Davis, “Feminism and Abolition: Theories and Practices for the Twentieth-First Century” in Freedom is a Constant Struggle: Ferguson, Palestine, and the Foundations of Movement (Duke UP, 2016): 91-127.

MAR 25 R— **CLASS PRESENTATIONS ON READINGS**: *READINGS ON RESERVE: James O. Young, *Black Writers of the Thirties, pp. 172-180; Faith Berry, ed., Good Morning Revolution, chapters 12-14, pp. 135-161.

WK 12

MAR 30 T— Hughes, I Wonder As I Wander (1956) Chapters 3-5. **ARTICLES ON ELECTRONIC RESERVE: Hughes, ‘Negro Writers Have Been on a Blacklist Masses and Mainstream July 1957:46-8, *Sexton, Jared, "Ante-Anti-Blackness-Afterthoughts."

APR 01 R— **CLASS PRESENTATIONS ON READINGS**: *READINGS ON RESERVE: Hughes, The Panther and the Lash: "Angola Question Mark," "Bible Belt," "Birmingham Sunday," "Black Panther," "Bombings in Dixie," "Death in Yorkville," "Dinner Guest: Me," "Dream Deferred," "Final Call," "Frosting," "Go Slow," "Impasse," "Junior Addict," "Last Prince of the East," "Lenox Ave Bar," "Militant," "Mother in Wartime," "Northern Liberal," "Office Building: Evening," "Official Notice," "Slum Dreams," "Special Bulletin," "Stokely Malcolm Me," "Sweet Words On Race," "The Backlash Blues," "Undertow," "War," and "Words Like Freedom."

WK 13 SCOTTSBORO, INTERNATIONALISM AND THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR

APR 06 T— VIEW—SCOTTSBORO: An American Tragedy (WGBH, 2001, 90 mins.)

*READINGS ON RESERVE: Faith Berry, Langston Hughes: Before and Beyond Harlem, pp. 154-234.

Hughes, The Panther and the Lash: "Christ in Alabama", "Justice", "Ku Klux", "Merry-Go-Round",

Frank B. Wilderson, III, "The Vengeance of Vertigo: Aphasia and Abjection in the Political Trials of Black Insurgents," *Intensions Journal* 5 (Fall / Winter 2011).

APR 08 R— **CLASS PRESENTATIONS ON FILM & READINGS:**

WK 14 10-MINUTE GROUP PRESENTATIONS AND 5-MINUTE Q & A (20PTS)

APR 13 T— **GROUPS PRESENT FINAL DRAMATIC or POETRY PROJECT**

GRP1: STUDENTS: _____

GRP2: STUDENTS: _____

GRP3: STUDENTS: _____

APR 15 R— **GROUPS PRESENT FINAL DRAMATIC or POETRY PROJECT**

GRP4: STUDENTS: _____

GRP5: STUDENTS: _____

WK 15 —LAST CLASS MEETING

APR 20 T--

Course: _____ **FIRST or LAST Semester English Major (circle one)**

Name _____ UFID#: _____

Address: _____ Place of Birth: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____ Year: _____

1) What other undergraduate performance, film, ethnic, women, and gender study courses have you taken?

2) Why are you taking this course?

3) What are your expectations?

4) What is/are your major area(s) of studies?

5) What do you intend to do after receiving your BA/BS degree?

6) Do you have any other comments that you wish to share?

Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Tue Jan 12, 2021	Calendar Event AML4311 Langston Hughes 1	10:40am to 11:30am
Thu Jan 14, 2021	Calendar Event AML 4311- Langston Hughes 1	10:40am to 12:35pm
Tue Jan 19, 2021	Calendar Event AML4311 Langston Hughes 2	10:40am to 11:30am
Thu Jan 21, 2021	Calendar Event AML 4311- Langston Hughes 2	10:40am to 12:35pm
Tue Jan 26, 2021	Calendar Event AML4311 Langston Hughes 3	10:40am to 11:30am
Thu Jan 28, 2021	Calendar Event AML 4311- Langston Hughes 3	10:40am to 12:35pm
Tue Feb 2, 2021	Calendar Event AML4311 Langston Hughes 4	10:40am to 11:30am
Thu Feb 4, 2021	Calendar Event AML 4311- Langston Hughes 4	10:40am to 12:35pm
Tue Feb 9, 2021	Calendar Event AML4311 Langston Hughes 5	10:40am to 11:30am
Thu Feb 11, 2021	Calendar Event AML 4311- Langston Hughes 5	10:40am to 12:35pm
Tue Feb 16, 2021	Calendar Event AML4311 Langston Hughes 6	10:40am to 11:30am
Thu Feb 18, 2021	Calendar Event AML 4311- Langston Hughes 6	10:40am to 12:35pm
Tue Feb 23, 2021	Calendar Event AML4311 Langston Hughes 7	10:40am to 11:30am
Thu Feb 25, 2021	Calendar Event AML 4311- Langston Hughes 7	10:40am to 12:35pm
Tue Mar 2, 2021	Calendar Event AML4311 Langston Hughes 8	10:40am to 11:30am
Thu Mar 4, 2021	Calendar Event AML 4311- Langston Hughes 8	10:40am to 12:35pm
Tue Mar 9, 2021	Calendar Event AML4311 Langston Hughes 9	10:40am to 11:30am
Thu Mar 11, 2021	Calendar Event AML 4311- Langston Hughes 9	10:40am to 12:35pm
Tue Mar 16, 2021	Calendar Event AML4311 Langston Hughes 10	10:40am to 11:30am
Thu Mar 18, 2021	Calendar Event AML 4311- Langston Hughes 10	10:40am to 12:35pm
Tue Mar 23, 2021	Calendar Event AML4311 Langston Hughes 11	10:40am to 11:30am
Thu Mar 25, 2021	Calendar Event AML 4311- Langston Hughes 11	10:40am to 12:35pm
Tue Mar 30, 2021	Calendar Event AML4311 Langston Hughes 12	10:40am to 11:30am
Thu Apr 1, 2021	Calendar Event AML 4311- Langston Hughes 12	10:40am to 12:35pm
Tue Apr 6, 2021	Calendar Event AML4311 Langston Hughes 13	10:40am to 11:30am
Thu Apr 8, 2021	Calendar Event AML 4311- Langston Hughes 13	10:40am to 12:35pm
Tue Apr 13, 2021	Calendar Event AML4311 Langston Hughes 14	10:40am to 11:30am

Date	Details
Thu Apr 15, 2021	Calendar Event AML 4311- Langston Hughes 14 10:40am to 12:35pm
Tue Apr 20, 2021	Calendar Event AML4311 Langston Hughes 15 10:40am to 11:30am
Thu Apr 22, 2021	Calendar Event AML 4311- Langston Hughes 15 10:40am to 12:35pm
Tue Apr 27, 2021	Calendar Event AML4311 Langston Hughes 16 10:40am to 11:30am
Thu Apr 29, 2021	Calendar Event AML 4311- Langston Hughes 16 10:40am to 12:35pm

December 2020

Calendar						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 November 2020 29 Previous month	30 November 2020 30 Previous month	1 December 2020 1	2 December 2020 2	3 December 2020 3	4 December 2020 4	5 December 2020 5
6 December 2020 6	7 December 2020 7	8 December 2020 8	9 December 2020 9	10 December 2020 10	11 December 2020 11	12 December 2020 12
13 December 2020 13	14 December 2020 14 Today	15 December 2020 15	16 December 2020 16	17 December 2020 17	18 December 2020 18	19 December 2020 19
20 December 2020 20	21 December 2020 21	22 December 2020 22	23 December 2020 23	24 December 2020 24	25 December 2020 25	26 December 2020 26
27 December 2020 27	28 December 2020 28	29 December 2020 29	30 December 2020 30	31 December 2020 31	1 January 2021 1 Next month	2 January 2021 2 Next month
3 January 2021 Next month	4 January 2021 Next month	5 January 2021 5 Next month	6 January 2021 6 Next month	7 January 2021 7 Next month	8 January 2021 8 Next month	9 January 2021 9 Next month

Course assignments are not weighted.