

AML4311 Class Number 10392 sec. 19CG James Baldwin & Critical Race Theory MWF Period 5 (11:45 am -12:35 pm)

Office 4318 TUR, Hours W 6th (12:50-1:40) BY appointment Tel: 294-2827, email: reid@ufl.edu

This course employs an interdisciplinary approach that requires students to familiarize themselves with James Baldwin's literary and sociopolitical writings. The course expects that students apply critical race theory in their analysis. Such theorizing will borrow from writing by scholars as Frank B. Wilderson III, Jared Sexton, Saidiya Hartman, Calvin Warren and essayists like Ta-Nehisi Coates. Class discussion and written work will discern whether there exists evidence of Afro-Pessimism and or postNegritude moments in Baldwin's oeuvre that easily dismisses post-racial fantasies and the machination of neo-liberal gestures.

I. REQUIRED TEXTS:

Baldwin, James. *Early Novels and Stories*. New York, NY: The Library of America, 1998. ISBN: 9781883011512 or ISBN: 1883011515

Baldwin, James. *Collected Essays*. New York, NY: The Library of America, 1998. ISBN: 9781883011529 or ISBN: 1883011523

Baldwin, James. *Blues for Mister Charlie: A Play*. New York: Vintage, 1964. ISBN: 978-0679761785

Campbell, James. *Talking At the Gates: A Life of James Baldwin*. Berkeley, Los Angeles, London: U. California Press, 1991. ISBN: 0-520231309

Youngblood, Shay. *Black Girl in Paris*. New York: Riverhead Books, 2001. ISBN: 1573228516

Note: Assigned and recommended texts and readings are held at the Reserve Desk on the second floor of Library West. Check the Smathers Library (West) Reserve List for this course Reid AML 4311 and the section number, to see if any assigned essays, book chapters, and plays are available as PDF files on ARES (ELECTRONIC RESERVE).

II. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1) Pop Quizzes and Reaction papers on weekly readings as well as film(s) screened in the earlier class (20 points) (1pt - 3pts each) The pop quiz is given during class.

2) The reaction paper is submitted online (CANVAS) and must arrive on or before 8:00 am on the day listed for each reaction paper due date. The instructor assigns the reaction paper and at the next class meeting, the student must have submitted a reaction paper by 8 am the day following the instructor's reaction-paper request. The reaction paper must be two single-space pages format with 12pt font lettering, and 1.5" margins for top/bottom and sides of the two pages. It should be submitted as a MSWORD document (.doc, .docx).

----Each pop quiz or reaction paper covers the assigned readings and films from the last two class meetings.

3) Individual 5-minute oral presentation and 5-min Q&A.

Instructor assigns each student's oral presentation on a required reading Due Weeks 3-13 (10 points) (Sept. 08 – Nov. 19).

4) 1-page outline. Each Student must hand-in a typed outline of their presentation (10 points). Due the day of their 5-minute discussion

The oral presentation on the assigned reading is graded on the following criteria:

A. The importance of the material presented to the class. Students must make brief references to primary scenes in a literary work (or film) to illustrate important racial, class, gender, sexuality and or regional issues to 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 during their oral presentation. Students must introduce the argument/thesis of their oral presentation based on their assigned section.

4) MIDTERM EXAM 60 MINS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13 - WK 8 (20 points)

5) FINAL PAPER 6-Page Final Paper (20pts.) and 1-page annotated bibliography (10pts.) [30 points]. Due Sunday, 21 November submit on CANVAS by 8:00 AM and deliver a Hardcopy in class on Monday 22 November.

Papers format is with 12 pt. font, 1.5 spacing for sentence and paragraphs. It should have citations from at least two books and two articles that were not assigned for course reading. Use the MLA HANDBOOK 8th Edition to organize and draft the paper.

Each student is responsible to submit their 6-page critical paper (20pts) and 1-page annotated bibliography (10pts). The final paper and annotated bibliography are Due Sunday, 21 November submit on CANVAS by 8:00 AM and deliver a Hardcopy in class on Monday 22 November.

The 6-page is graded based on the following criteria: The critical importance of the material presented in student's essay. Students employ a critical approach that interrogate issues of literary form, social-historical issues, and spiritual/religious imagery that Baldwin addresses and enables in his writings and public lectures.

The essay should be a developed and extended version of the student's assigned presentation. Or students may focus their analysis on any of two following issues: 1) the Harlem community and the Black Family and extended Family, 2) Baldwin's discussions on the social construction of sexuality in his essays, novels, short-stories, public lectures, and interviews. 4) Gender. The paper should make brief references to primary assigned texts and scenes in the literary works and/or film to illustrate their arguments.

III. ATTENDANCE

Two non-excused absences will lower a student's final grade point average by minus five points. Three non-excused absences will lower the average by minus ten points. More than four non-excused absences are grounds for a failing grade.

The only excusable absence is one that results from an illness that is documented by a written letter from a doctor or nurse.

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) that an assignment is late (This means that late reaction papers receive zero points of the two points allotted). **NOTE: A medical excuse will not be accepted to explain the late delivery of a written assignment or film/video project.**

1. GRADING SCALE

<u>A</u>	<u>100.00-90.00</u>	<u>20.00-18.00</u>	<u>10.00-09.00</u>	<u>2.00-1.80</u>
<u>A-</u>	<u>89.99-87.00</u>	<u>17.99-17.40</u>	<u>08.90-08.70</u>	<u>1.78-1.74</u>
<u>B+</u>	<u>86.99-84.00</u>	<u>17.20-16.80</u>	<u>08.69-08.40</u>	<u>1.72-1.68</u>
<u>B</u>	<u>83.99-80.00</u>	<u>16.60-16.00</u>	<u>08.39-08.00</u>	<u>1.66-1.60</u>
<u>B-</u>	<u>79.99-77.00</u>	<u>15.99-15.40</u>	<u>07.99-07.70</u>	<u>1.59-1.53</u>
<u>C+</u>	<u>76.99-74.00</u>	<u>15.20-14.80</u>	<u>07.69-07.40</u>	<u>1.52-1.48</u>
<u>C</u>	<u>73.99-70.00</u>	<u>14.79-14.00</u>	<u>07.39-07.00</u>	<u>1.47-1.40</u>
<u>C-</u>	<u>69.99-67.00</u>	<u>13.99-13.40</u>	<u>06.99-06.70</u>	<u>1.39-1.34</u>
<u>D+</u>	<u>66.99-64.00</u>	<u>13.39-12.80</u>	<u>06.69-06.40</u>	<u>1.33-1.28</u>
<u>D</u>	<u>63.99-60.00</u>	<u>12.79-12.00</u>	<u>06.39-06.00</u>	<u>1.27-1.20</u>
<u>D-</u>	<u>59.99-57.00</u>	<u>11.99-11.40</u>	<u>05.99-05.70</u>	<u>1.19-1.14</u>
<u>E</u>	<u>56.00</u>	<u>11.39-00.00</u>	<u>05.69-00.00</u>	<u>1.13-0.00</u>
<u>Cumulative</u>	<u>Midterm (20pts)</u>	<u>Oral presentation (10pts.)</u>	<u>10 @ 2-3pts (20pts)</u>	
	<u>Paper (20pts)</u>	<u>Oral Outline (10pts.)</u>	<u>.</u>	
	<u>Paper Bibliography (10pts.)</u>	<u>Final presentation oral (10pts.)</u>		

VI. 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

WK 1 COURSE INTRODUCTION

AUG 23 M --- SCREEN FIRST SEGMENTS OF James Baldwin, *THE PRICE OF THE TICKET* (1990 dir. Karen Thorsen) 87mins

Early Writings From Paris I: Go Tell It On the Mountain (1953)

AUG 25 W ---READ: Baldwin, *Early Novels & Stories-Go Tell It On the Mountain* (1953). Section: 'The Seventh Day'

AUG 27 F ---READ: Baldwin, *Early Novels & Stories-Go Tell It On the Mountain* (1953). Section: 'Florence's Prayer'

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WK 2 *Early Writings From Paris II: Go Tell It On the Mountain* (1953)

AUG 30 M--- READ: 'Gabriel's Prayer', 'Elizabeth's Prayer', and The Threshing Floor'.

The Pursuit of Heteronormative Middle-Class Respectability

SEP 01 W---READ: Baldwin, *Giovanni's Room* (1956), PART ONE

SEP 03 F---READ: Baldwin, *Giovanni's Room* (1956), PART TWO

WK 3 *The Northern Ghetto: Harlem and CRITICAL RACE THEORY*

SEP 06 M--- NO CLASS HOLIDAY ---READ: Derrick Bell, *University of Illinois Law Review* "Who's Afraid of Critical Race Theory?" and James Baldwin, "Transcript: James Baldwin Debates William F. Buckley (1965) | Blog #42". Both are available on electronic course reserve *ARES LIBRARY WEST*. Baldwin, *Collected Essays*, p. 231 -"The Male Prison"(10); p.269 -"The Black Boy Looks at the White Boy"(13); p. 42 -"The Harlem Ghetto"; and p. 63-"Notes of a Native Son".

SEP 08 W--- Individual 5-minute oral presentation begins

READ: Baldwin, *Collected Essays*, p. 137 -"The Discovery of What It Means to Be an American"; p. 170 -"Fifth Avenue, Uptown"; and p. 187 -"A Fly in Buttermilk".

SEP 10 F---READ: Baldwin, *Collected Essays*, p. 11-"Everybody's Protest Novel"(1949); and p. 19-"Many Thousand Gone" (1951).

WK 4 *Race, Segregation, and the South: HANDS UP: DON'T SHOOT*

SEP 13 M--- READ: Baldwin, *Early Novels & Stories - Blues for Mister Charlie* (1964), Baldwin, *Collected Essays*, p. 197 -"Nobody Knows My Name: A Letter From the South", p. 209 -"Faulkner and Desegregation"; p. 215 -"In Search of a Majority"; p. 222 -"Notes of a Hypothetical Novel"; and p. 247 -"Alas, Poor Richard".

SEP 15 W--- READ: **Baldwin, *Collected Essays***, p. 577-“Smaller Than Life”; p. 606-“The Curse of Indignation”; p. 622-“They Can’t Turn Back”; and p. 638-“The Dangerous Road Before Martin Luther King”.

SEP 17 F--- READ: **Baldwin, *Collected Essay***, p. 659-“The New Lost Generation”; p. 673-“Color”; “A Report from Occupied Territory”; p. 799-“Notes on the House of Bondage”; and p. 766-“An Open Letter to Mr. Carter”.

WK 5 ***Race, Segregation, and Education***

SEP 20 M--- READ: Daniel Solórzano, Miguel Ceja, and Tara Yosso, “Critical Race Theory, Racial Microaggressions, and Campus Racial Climate: The Experiences of African American College Students”

The Journal of Negro Education, Vol. 69, No. 1/2, Knocking at Freedom's Door: Race, Equity, and Affirmative Action in U.S. Higher Education. (Available on electronic course reserve *ARES LIBRARY WEST*.)

ALSO READ: **Baldwin, *Collected Essays***, p. 678-“A Talk to Teachers”; p.687-“This Nettle, Danger”; and p. 773-“If Black English Isn’t a Language, Then Tell Me, What Is It?”.

SEP 22 W--- **Baldwin, *Collected Essays***, p. 707-“Words Of a Native Son”; p. 714-“American Dream and American Negro”; p. 722-“The White Man’s Guilt”; p. 728-“A Report from Occupied Territory”; p. 739-“Negroes Are Anti-Semitic Because They’re Anti-White”; and p. 788-“Dark Days”.

SEP 24 F--- READ: **Baldwin, *Collected Essays, No Name in the Street***: p. 353 -“Take Me to the Water”; p. 204-“To Be Baptized”; and p. 475-“Epilogue: Who Has Believed Our Report?”

WK 6 ***Tran-sectional Political Activism***

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

SEP 27 M--- 40mins. selections- ***FREEDOM RIDERS***

SEP 29 W --- 40mins: selections- ***FREEDOM RIDERS***

OCT 01 F --- 40mins: selections- ***FREEDOM RIDERS***

WK 7 ***On Fluidity, Change, and Multidimensional Sexuality***

OCT 04 M--- READ: **Campbell, *Talking at the Gates***, Chapters 19 through Chapter 23 and ‘Afterword to the 2002 Edition: Campbell v. US Department of Justice’.

OCT 06 W--- READ: **Baldwin, *Collected Essays***, p. 814-“Freaks and the American Ideal of Manhood”; p. 830 -“The Price of the Ticket”. **On ARES, (the electronic-reserves Library West online site) and Eldridge Cleaver, *Soul On Ice***, ‘Notes On a Native Son’ pp. 97-111.

OCT 08 F--- NO CLASS HOMECOMING

WK 8 MIDTERM EXAM 60 MINS (20 points) Wednesday, 13 October

OCT 11 M--- NO CLASS - STUDY FOR THE MIDTERM:

OCT 13 W--- MIDTERM EXAM 60 MINS (20 points)

OCT 15 F--- READ: **Angela Peoples**, “Don’t Just Thank Black Women. Follow Us.” *New York Times*, December 16, 2017. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/16/opinion/sunday/black-women-leadership.html>.

WK 9 In Search of the Postcolonial in Baldwin as an Intersectional Consciousness

OCT 18 M--- READ: **Baldwin, *Collected Essay*** p.85-“Encounter on the Seine: Black Meets Brown”; p.91-“A Question of Identity”; and. p.101-“Equal in Paris”. READ: **Angela Davis**, “Transnational Solidarities” in *Freedom is a Constant Struggle*, pp. 129-145

OCT 20 W--- READ: **Baldwin, *Collected Essay*** p.117-“Stranger in the Village” (1953); p.143-“Princes and Powers” (1957); and p.808-“Introduction to Notes of a Native Son, 1984”.

OCT 22 F--- READ: **Baldwin, *Collected Essay*** p. 749-“White Racism or World Community?”

WK 10 In Search of the Postcolonial in Baldwin as a Poetic Muse

OCT 25 M--- READ: Shay Youngblood, *Black Girl in Paris*, pp. 1-39. Chapter “Museum Guide.”

OCT 27 W--- READ: Shay Youngblood, *Black Girl in Paris*, pp. 43-118. Chapters “Traveling Companion,” “Artist’s Model I: Paris,” ‘Au Pair.’”

OCT 29 F--- READ: Shay Youngblood, *Black Girl in Paris*, pp. 121-185. Chapters “Poet’s Helper,” “Lover,” and “English Teacher.”

WK 11 In Search of the Postcolonial in Baldwin as a Poetic Muse

NOV 01 M--- READ: Shay Youngblood, *Black Girl in Paris*, pp. 187-217. Chapter “Thief”

NOV 03 W--- READ: Shay Youngblood, *Black Girl in Paris*, pp. 219-238. Chapter “Artist’s Model II: Vence.”

NOV 05 F--- READ: *Instructor-student meetings by appointment in 4318 TURL (5th (11:45-12:35)).*

WK 12 Raoul Peck (director), *I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO* (2016) 94mins.

NOV 08 M --- 30mins: selections-

NOV 10 W --- 30mins: selections-

NOV 12 F --- 34mins: selections-

WK 13 Individual 5-minute oral presentations end

NOV 15 M --- READ: *Instructor-student meetings by appointment in 4318 TURL (5th (11:45-12:35))*

NOV 17 W --- NO CLASS – WORK ON FINAL PAPER

NOV 19 F --- NO CLASS – WORK ON FINAL PAPER

WK 14 DUE -Student's 6-Page Final Paper and 1-page Annotated Bibliography (30pts)

NOV 22 M --- DUE Student's 6-page Final Paper (20pts) and 1-page annotated bibliography (10pts.)

1. *Due Sunday, 21 November submit on CANVAS by 8:00 AM.*
2. *On Monday 22 November deliver a Hardcopy in the class.*

NOV 24 W ---NO CLASS--THANKSGIVING BREAK--WEDNESDAY

NOV 26 F ---NO CLASS--THANKSGIVING BREAK-- FRIDAY

WK 15 GROUP PRESENTATIONS (15 mins per group, 10 points)

NOV 29 M--- Groups: Harlem, Family, and the Extended Families of Sexualities

DEC 01 W--- Groups: Critical Race Theory-The South and the 'Other Souths'

DEC 03 F--- Groups: Critical Race Theory-The South and the 'Other Souths'

WK 16 GROUP PRESENTATIONS (15 mins per group, 10 points)

DEC 06 M--- Groups: Sexuality, Gender and Fluidity

DEC 08 W--- LAST CLASS: TBA