

**REID AML4685 sec. 09HE: THE WORLD OF JAMES BALDWIN R 9-11 (4:05- 7:05) TUR 1105
Office 4318 TURL R9 (3-3:50pm); TEL: 294-2827; E-MAIL: reid@ufl.edu**

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.

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

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 Reserve List for this course to see if any assigned essays or plays are available as PDF files on ARES (ELECTRONIC RESERVE) section on the Smathers Library Website. Look under Reid and this course's section number #09HE.

II.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1) **2-page-typed Journal Entries** on weekly readings as well as film(s) screened in the previous class 30 points
combined with Pop Quizzes on weekly readings as well as film(s) screened in the previous class (2pts - 3pts each)

2) **Individual 5-minute oral presentation.** Instructor assigns each student a critical oral presentation of a required reading (5 minutes)

Due Weeks 3–11

20 points

The assigned reading will be 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 particular literary work (or film) to illustrate important issues as well as 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.

3) **1-page outline** Each Student is responsible for a typed outline of their 5-minute discussion. 10 points

Due on the day when the student presents her/his 5-minute discussion

4) GRPS #1- #8 PAPER & PRESENTATIONS

40 points

The GROUP PAPERS cover each group's assigned readings that were presented by **each group member. Each member** is responsible for a specific section of the group paper, which is compiled into the group paper with footnotes and a single bibliography. **The instructor assigns each student section a separate grade. THERE IS NO GROUP GRADE.** You will have several opportunities to pose questions when I meet with each group on Week 12 in my Turlington Hall office and throughout the semester during my Thursday 3-3:50 PM office hours.

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

V.		GRADING SCALE				
A	100.00-90.00 2.00-1.80	40.00-36.00	20.00-18.00		10.00-09.00	
A-	89.99-87.00 1.78-1.74	35.99-34.80	17.99-17.40		08.90-08.70	
B+	86.99-84.00 1.72-1.68	34.79-33.60	17.20-16.80		08.69-08.40	
B	83.99-80.00 1.66-1.60	33.59-32.00	16.60-16.00		08.39-08.00	
B-	79.99-77.00 1.59-1.53	31.99-30.80	15.99-15.40		07.99-07.70	
C+	76.99-74.00 1.48	30.79-29.60	15.20-14.80		07.69-07.40	1.52-
C	73.99-70.00 1.47-1.40	29.59-28.00	14.79-14.00		07.39-07.00	
C-	69.99-67.00 1.34	27.99-26.80	13.99-13.40		06.99-06.70	1.39-
D+	66.99-64.00 1.28	26.79-25.60	13.39-12.80		06.69-06.40	1.33-
D	63.99-60.00 1.20	25.59-24.00	12.79-12.00		06.39-06.00	1.27-
D-	59.99-57.00 1.19-1.14	23.99-22.80	11.99-11.40		05.99-05.70	
E	56.00 0.00	22.79-00.00	11.39-00.00		05.69-00.00	1.13-
	Cumulative plus journal entries/quizzes	Group paper outline 10pts	student presentation 40pts 2-3pts for a total of 30pts		presentation 20pts	ten-

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	28 R---	SCREEN: James Baldwin, <i>THE PRICE OF THE TICKET</i> (1990 dir. Karen Thorsen) 87m
WK 2		<i>Early Writings From Paris I</i>
SEP	04 R---	READ: Baldwin, <i>Early Novels & Stories-Go Tell It On the Mountain</i> (1953)
WK 3		<i>Early Writings From Paris II</i>
SEP	11 R---	READ: Baldwin, <i>Collected Essays</i> , p.11-"Everybody's Protest Novel"(1949), p.19-"Many Thousand Gone" (1951), p.85-"Encounter on the Seine: Black Meets Brown", p.91-"A Question of Identity," p.101-"Equal in Paris," p.117-"Stranger in the Village" (1953), and p.143-"Princes and Powers" (1957), and p.808-"Introduction to Notes of a Native Son, 1984".

WK 4 **PURSUIT OF HETERONORMATIVE & MIDDLE-CLASS RESPECTABILITY**
SEP 18 R--- READ: **Baldwin, *Giovanni's Room* (1956),**

 WK 5 **THE NORTHERN GHETTO: HARLEM**
SEP 25 R--- READ: **Baldwin, *Collected Essays*, p.231 -“The Male Prison”, p.269 -“The Black Boy Looks at the White Boy”, p.42 -“The Harlem Ghetto”, p.63-“Notes of a Native Son”, p.137 -“The Discovery of What It Means to Be an American”, p.170 -“Fifth Avenue, Uptown”, p.187 -“A Fly in Buttermilk”.**

 WK 6 **RACE, SEGREGATION AND THE SOUTH I: HANDS UP: DON'T SHOOT**
OCT 02 R--- 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”, p.247 -“Alas, Poor Richard”**

 WK 7 **RACE, SEGREGATION AND THE SOUTH II**
OCT 09 R--- READ: **Baldwin, *Collected Essays*, p.577-“Smaller Than Life”, p.606-“The Curse of Indignation”, p.622-“They Can't Turn Back”, p.638-“The Dangerous Road Before Martin Luther King”, p.659-“, p.673-“Color”, -“A Report from Occupied Territory”, p.799-“Notes on the House of Bondage”, p.766-“An Open Letter to Mr. Carter”.**

 WK 8 **RACE, SEGREGATION AND THE SOUTH III**
OCT 16 R--- READ: **Baldwin, *Collected Essays*, p.678-“A Talk to Teachers”, p.687-“This Nettle, Danger”, p.773-“If Black English Isn't a Language, Then Tell Me, What Is It?”, p.707-“Words Of a Native Son”, p.714-“American Dream and American Negro”, p.722-“The White Man's Guilt”, p.728 p.739-“Negroes Are Anti-Semitic Because They're Anti-White”, p.749-“White Racism or World Community?”, p.788-“Dark Days”.**

 WK 9 **SCREENING: RACE, SEGREGATION AND THE SOUTH IV**
OCT 23 R--- READ: **Baldwin, *Collected Essays, No Name in the Street*: p.353-“Take Me to the Water”, p.204-“To Be Baptized”, p.475-“Epilogue: Who Has Believed Our Report?”**
VIEW: Stanley Nelson dir. *FREEDOM 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 10 **BALDWIN ON FLUIDITY, CHANGE, AND MULTIDIMENSIONAL SEXUALITY**
OCT 30 R--- READ: **Campbell, *Talking at the Gates*, Chapters 19 through Chapter 23 and ‘Afterword to the 2002 Edition: Campbell v. US Department of Justice’, and *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) read –Eldridge Cleaver, *Soul On Ice*, ‘Notes On a Native Son’ pp. 97-111.****

 WK 11 **IN SEARCH OF BALDWIN: FLUIDITY, CHANGE, AND MULTIDIMENSIONAL SEXUALITY**
NOV 06 R--- READ: **Shay Youngblood, *Black Girl in Paris***

 WK 12 **PAPER DISCUSSION & PRESENTATIONS**
NOV 13 R---

 WK 13 **PAPER DISCUSSION & PRESENTATIONS**
NOV 20 R---

 WK 14 **27 NOVEMBER - THANKSGIVING BREAK**

 WK 15 **FINAL CLASS**
DEC 04 R --- **TO BE ANNOUNCED**

