

TuTh 9:30 a.m-10:45 a.m.
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AA390C African American Literature of the 1930's

Required texts:

Bontemps, Arna. *Black Thunder*
Harper, Michael and Anthony Walton. *The Vintage Book of African American Poetry*
Hughes, Langston. *The Best of Simple*
Hurston, Zora Neale. *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
Petry, Ann. *The Street*
Wright, Richard. *Native Son*

In this course we will examine African American literature and culture from onset of the Great Depression until the end of World War II. The official title of this class is a bit of misnomer in several ways since we will study a range of cultural forms, including the visual arts, music, theater, and film as well as literature. We will look at the political and social context out which these cultural forms grew. We will also consider such generic questions as the relation of black cultural production to such artistic movements as modernism, proletarian literature, social realism, and naturalism and to popular and high culture representations of African Americans and African American culture.

The requirements for the course are as follows: regular attendance in class; participation in class discussion; submission of a weekly one-page response paper; one two- to three-page paper; one eight- to ten-page paper; and a take-home final exam. Final grades will be figured roughly according to the following scale:

Class attendance and participation: 35%
First paper: 10%
Second paper: 30%
Final exam 25%

PLEASE NOTE: I take paper deadlines very seriously--plan accordingly. The two longer papers must be typed (response papers can be hand-written) and should follow some accepted style sheet, preferably that of the Modern Language Association.

Students should also note that all the requirements for the course must be met in order to get a passing grade.

- 9/8 Introduction
- 9/10 Screening of *Hallelujah*
- 9/15 Screening and discussion of *Hallelujah*
- 9/17 Hughes, *Scottsboro Limited*
- 9/22 Sterling Brown in Harper and Walton
- 9/24 Screening of *Emperor Jones*
- 9/29 Screening and discussion of *Emperor Jones*. First paper due.
- 10/1 Bontemps, *Black Thunder*
- 10/6 Bontemps, *Black Thunder*
- 10/13 Monday schedule. No class
- 10/15 Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
- 10/20 Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
- 10/22 Langston Hughes poetry; Frank Marshall Davis poetry Margaret Walker in Harper and Walton
- 10/27 Robert Hayden in Harper and Walton; Melvin Tolson in Harper and Walton; Gwendolyn Brooks in Harper and Walton
- 10/29 Visual Arts
- 11/3 Music and Dance
- 11/5 Wright, *Native Son*
- 11/10 Wright, *Native Son*
- 11/12 Wright, *Native Son*
- 11/17 Petry, *The Street*
- 11/19 Petry, *The Street*

11/24 Petry, *The Street*

11/26 Thanksgiving. No class

12/1 Audiotape of *Destination Freedom*

12/3 Hughes, *Best of Simple*

12/8 Hughes, *Best of Simple*

12/10 Conclusion. Evaluations. Final paper due

12/17 Final exam due