

Tu 12:00-2:20 p.m.
Instructor: James Smethurst
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AFROAM 692F From Reconstruction to Renaissance

Required texts:

Chesnutt, Charles, *The Conjure Woman*
Cooper, Anna Julia. *A Voice from the South*
Dunbar, Paul Laurence. *The Collected Poetry of Paul Laurence Dunbar*
Dunbar, Paul Laurence. *The Sport of the Gods*
Harper, Frances E.W. *Iola Leroy*
Hopkins, Pauline. *Contending Forces*
Washington, Booker T., William E.B. DuBois and James Weldon Johnson. *Three Negro Classics*

This course examines African American literature and culture from the rise of Reconstruction through the onset of Jim Crow and the Great Migration to the beginnings of the Harlem Renaissance. We will be particularly interested in relationship between African American literature and culture during this period and the notions of modernity, modernism, and the artistic and social avant-garde in the United States.

The requirements for the course are as follows: regular attendance in class; participation in class discussion; submission of a weekly one-page response paper; class presentations; one three-to- four-page paper; and one fifteen-to-twenty-page paper. Final grades will be figured roughly according to the following scale:

Class attendance and participation (including presentations): 40%
First paper: 10%
Second Paper: 50%

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 or the *Chicago Manual of Style*.

ANOTHER NOTE: The required books are available at the Food For Thought bookstore.

A FINAL NOTE: The schedule may change from time to time as opportunities/necessities present themselves.

- 9/8 Introduction
- 9/15 Chesnutt, *The Conjure Woman*
- 9/22 Cooper, *A Voice from the South*
- 9/29 Dunbar, *Lyrics of Lowly Life*. First paper due
- 10/6 Harper, *Iola Leroy*
- 10/13 Monday Schedule. No Class
- 10/20 Washington, *Up from Slavery*
- 10/27 Hopkins, *Contending Forces*
- 11/3 Dunbar, *The Sport of the Gods*
- 11/10 Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk*
- 11/17 Poetry by Fenton Johnson, William Stanley Braithwaite, James Weldon Johnson, and Georgia Douglas Johnson
- 11/24 Johnson, *Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man*
- 12/1 Screening and discussion of *Within Our Gates*
- 12/8 Presentations. Conclusion. Evaluations
- 12/15 Final paper due