

The Harlem Renaissance- Syllabus

Spring Semester. January 13-May 3 (Final Exam date), 2011.

Instructor	Dr. Maurice A. Lee	E-mail	mauricel@uca.edu
Phone	Tel. No. 501, 450-5137 Fax. No. 501, 450-5185	Office Hours	11:00am-12:00 Noon: TWTh. and by Appointment
Office	Room 120 Irby Hall	COURSE NUMBERS SEQUENCE NUMBER	4304, 5304 23562, 23483

Text:

Texts: 1) *Three Negro Classics*: “Up From Slavery,” “The Souls of Black Folk,” and “The Autobiography Of An Ex-Colored Man”(Booker T. Washington, W.E.B.Dubois, and James Weldon Johnson, authors respectively). 2) *Home To Harlem*, Claude McKay. 3.) *Cane*, Jean Toomer. 4) *Sula*, Toni Morrison.

Description:

Course Description: This course will examine the period in literary history between 1919 and 1929 roughly, in which the emergence of African/African-American culture impacted on the society profoundly through art, music, literature, theatre, politics, religion, and education. For this course, the emphasis will be on the literature, primarily, with references to the other areas as the texts dictate. Although Blacks were migrating to many areas of the country from the South, Harlem in New York became the mecca for most of the writers to get published and hone their skills. We will examine the various themes that emerged during this period, focusing on both the forces that led to the “renaissance,” as well as the issues which fed and fueled it. Key to the discussion will be developing an understanding of the “Black aesthetic” pertinent to writers, critics, and readers, and the concept of how African/African-American Literature strove to become a universal literature. Students should view their discussion, scholarship, and writing as an ongoing progression to understanding, knowledge, and insight, rather than a fact finding mission for a permanent or “correct” answer.

Course Objectives: The objective of this course is for students to demonstrate their command of the humanities’ skills pertinent to an understanding of the material and its contents. Students must develop sufficient knowledge of the culture (period and times), the literature, and writers in order to do scholarly work reflecting the period of the renaissance. Such knowledge is demonstrated through examinations, quizzes, class discussions, and research papers. Accordingly, students must have the appropriate writing skills for courses at the 4000, 5000 level. Finally, the objective is for students to come to a point of informed and intelligent discourse on the various literary and scholarly issues related to African/African-American Literature in general and more specifically to the Harlem Renaissance period.

Requirements:

Students are required to attend class, to prepare the material before class, i.e., to read the assigned texts, to be prepared to discuss material for that class period, and to behave in a

manner befitting serious college students. Classes will start and end on time and students are required to be seated by the start of class at 9:25 am. No eating or drinking of any kind is allowed in class. Roll is taken at each class and students must check with the professor during the semester, if there is any question about absences or tardiness. Students are allowed two unexcused absences and two times for tardiness before their grade is reduced for these infractions. Students are required to review all of the policies in the *Student Handbook* pertinent to classroom behavior and policies, in particular the **Sexual Harassment Policy**, and the **Academic Policies**. Please note that the use of cell phones, beepers, pagers, and all other electronic devices not associated with the class is prohibited. Since it is impossible to list the assortment of behaviors that may impact on the intellectual atmosphere in the classroom, as a general rule, students should deport themselves in such a manner as to reflect positively on the learning experience. If there is uncertainty in this area, it is the responsibility of the student to confer with the professor for clarity.

Plagiarism is the willful use of the thoughts, words, ideas, language, and material of someone else as your own. Such behavior, the worst violation of academic principles, will not be tolerated and may result in suspension from the class as well as the university. Students who plagiarize on an assignment will receive an F for that assignment plus a drop of one letter in the overall grade. Students who plagiarize more than once will be suspended from class and will be recommended to the disciplinary committee for dismissal from the university. Students are advised that much of the material on the internet is not reliable; so students should check these resources before using them in their research papers. The professor will discuss this in more detail in class.

Evaluation:

Students will be graded on the following: 1) Attendance and Preparation; 2) Discussion; 3) Four Fifty (50) point quizzes: Two Announced, Two Unannounced; 4) One Mid-Term: One Hundred (100) points; 5) One Final (100) points; 6) One Research Paper: One Hundred (100) points. Percentages of these grades for the course are as follows: Attendance, Preparation, and Discussion: 25%; Quizzes: 10%; Mid-term: 20%; Final: 25%; Research Paper: 20%. There will be two additional assignments, by student request only, and if time permits, for extra grading. Please note that quizzes may not be made up regardless of reason for absence and missing them. The mid-term and final may be made up if the appropriate excuse is presented to the professor prior to the examinations, unless there is an emergency of such nature as to prevent this request. Research papers must be handed in on time. There are no extensions of the research paper deadline unless there is a request to the professor in writing to which he agrees.

Disabilities Statement: “The University of Central Arkansas adheres to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need accommodation under this act due to a disability, contact the Office of Disability Support Services at 450-3135.”

The Harlem Renaissance--Course Schedule

Week	Day	Date	Assignment
1	Th.	Jan. 13 th	Introduction to the Harlem Renaissance
2	Tu.	Jan. 18 th	<i>Three Negro Classics</i> : “Up From Slavery” Booker T. Washington
2	Th.	Jan. 20 th	“ Up From Slavery: Discussion Continues
3	Tu.	Jan. 25 th	“ Up From Slavery: Discussion Continues
3	Th.	Jan. 27 th	“ Up From Slavery : Discussion Continues
4	Tu.	Feb. 1 st	“ The Souls of Black Folk: W.E.B.DuBois: Introduction and Discussion
4	Th.	Feb. 3 rd	“The Souls of Black Folk...” Discussion Continues
5	Tu.	Feb. 8 th	“The Souls of Black Folk: Discussion Cont.
5	Th.	Feb. 10 th	“The Souls of Black Folk: Discussion Continues Quiz
6	Tu.	Feb.15 th	<i>Autobiography of An Ex-Colored Man</i> : James Weldon Johnson: Discussion
6	Th.	Feb.17 th	<i>Autobiography</i> : Discussion Continues
7	Tu.	Feb. 22 nd	<i>Autobiography</i> : Discussion Continues
7	Th.	Feb. 24 th	<i>Autobiography</i> : Discussion Continues
8	Tu.	March 1 st	Mid-Term Examination: In class essay examination on all material to date.
8	Th.	March 3 rd	<i>Home To Harlem</i> : Claude McKay Assignments on <i>Home to Harlem</i> Distributed
9	Tu.	March 8 th	<i>Home To Harlem</i> : Discussion Continues: Mid-Term Examination returned.
9	Th.	March 10 th	<i>Home To Harlem</i> : Discussion Continues: Student Presentations on <i>Home to Harlem</i>
10	Tu.	March 15 th –	<i>Home to Harlem</i> : Discussion Continues: Student Presentations on <i>Home to Harlem</i>
10	Th.	March 17 th	Discussion of Research Paper Criteria: Attendance Required
10 & 11	Tu.	Mar. 19 th – 27 th	Spring Break Be prepared to discuss <i>Cane</i> on the 28 th upon your return.

12	Th.	March ^{29th}	<i>Cane</i> : Jean Toomer: Discussion
12		March 31 st	<i>Cane</i> : Discussion Continues
13	Tu.	April 5 th	<i>Cane</i> : Discussion Continues
13	Th.	April 7 th	<i>Cane</i> : Discussion Continues Quiz
14	Tu.	April 12 th	<i>Sula</i> , Toni Morrison. First draft of Research Paper due. (Depending on time, Cane may also be discussed).
14	Th.	April 14 th	<i>Sula</i> : Discussion Continues
15	Tu.	April 19 th	<i>Sula</i> : Discussion Continues.
15	Th.	April 21 st	<i>Sula</i> : Discussion Continues
16	Tu.	April 26 th	Course Review and Student Presentations on <i>Sula</i> Research Papers Due; continuation of course review
16	Fri.	April 28 th April 29 th	Student Presentations Continue. Research or “Dead Day”
17		May 3-7 Your Exam is scheduled for May 3 , in this room from 8:00 to 10:00am	Final Examination Week. Please bring examination Blue Books. Exam Given As Scheduled. Note: students who want their examinations and papers should pick them up in the professor’s office after May 15 th or leave a self addressed envelope on the day of the examination. Please put enough postage on envelope for mailing.

Because the professor for this class is also the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, there may be the rare occasion when he will have to be absent to attend to other business associated with the university. On such occasions another professor will be in charge of the class; you will be informed well in advance of such occasions, but your attendance will be required as is the norm for this class.

Professor Maurice A. Lee