



Middlebury

Jerry Philogene, Ph.D.
Endowed Associate Professor
Director, Black Studies Program
Carr Hall, Room 201
Middlebury College
Middlebury, VT 05753
802-443-4203

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Greetings, Alumni College Students!

I am looking forward to meeting you in August during Visual and Literary Arts of the Harlem Renaissance and Its Aftermath. The course is a lecture- and discussion-based course, where we will be introduced to some of the major intellectual and social issues of this period in American cultural history known as the Harlem Renaissance or the “New Negro” movement. While exploring the rich visual arts of the era and through consideration of major visual and literary artists—painters, sculptors, photographers, and writers—the course probes the impetus behind and meaning and legacy of a period in American history that saw a surge of African American artistic expression. The course will end with a conversation on the artistic and literary influence of the Harlem Renaissance on James Baldwin.

During our time together, we will discuss two short novels by Nella Larsen, *Quicksand* and *Passing*, and several essays. The title of the essays and links are listed below in the syllabus.

As you read the essays and take notes, ask yourself what key points are being made in these essays. How are the authors presenting the arts as an essential element during the formation of the Harlem Renaissance or the “New Negro” movement? As you read the two novels by Larsen, ask yourself what critical social and cultural points she was addressing in her novels. How does she develop the plots as well as the characters in the novel to illustrate her points?

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or Lori Mackey if you have any questions. Again, I look forward to meeting you and having robust discussions during our classes.

Visual and Literary Arts of the Harlem Renaissance and Its Aftermath

Syllabus and Discussions

Thursday, August 28

(1) Alain Locke, “The New Negro” (1925)

<https://scalar.lehigh.edu/african-american-poetry-a-digital-anthology/the-new-negro-essay-by-alain-locke-1925>

(2) Alain Locke, “The Negro in Art” (1931)

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/41174851.pdf>

(3) W.E.B. Du Bois, “Criteria of Negro Art” (1926)

<http://faculty.gordonstate.edu/lсандерс-senu/Criteria%20for%20Negro%20Art.pdf>

Friday, August 29

Discussion of *Quicksand* and *Passing*

Deborah McDowell, Editor (1986)

ISBN: 0-81351170-4

Saturday, August 30

(1) James Baldwin, "Autobiographical Notes" (1955)

https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/books/first/b/baldwin-essays.html?_r=2

(2) James Baldwin, "The Creative Process" (1962)

<https://openspaceofdemocracy.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/baldwin-creative-process.pdf>

(3) Langston Hughes, "The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain" (June 3, 1926)

<https://eclass.uoa.gr/modules/document/file.php/ENL276/the%20negro%20artist%20and%20the%20racial%20mountain.pdf>

Sunday, August 31

Final Thoughts

Have a wonderful summer, and happy reading!

Professor Philogene

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jphilogene@middlebury.edu