

Fromm Institute, Fall, 2020 Prof. Goldberg

Reading Calendar: "Black (and Brown) Lit Matters"

* Indicates Required Stories/Novel. All other entries are non-required recommended readings or short segments/videos to be covered in class, as time permits.

This requires a subscription to "The New Yorker". The link can be found below. You will notice several options; THE EASIEST AND BEST SHORT-TERM OPTION is the middle box that offers a 12 week Digital and Print Subscription for \$12. Choose this option if you don't want a longer yearly subscription. This will cover the duration of the class and beyond and also provide Election Coverage. You will get access to the complete New Yorker archive. If you choose the yearly rate for Digital only for \$49.99, that's also a good deal. If you want a yearly subscription for both Digital and Print, let me know and I can get special educator rates. Let me or Alfredo Martinez know if you have any problems obtaining this subscription.

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Week One (Sept. 16)

Course Introduction: Syllabus.

Slide Show with Discussion ("Black Writers, Black Scholars, Black and White, The Language of Black Lives").

Poetry Bits. The "Language" of Blues.

Week Two (Sept. 23)

Mini-Slide Show with Discussion (Mostly Hispanic Lit).

The Language of Latin Rhythm USA.

Julia Alvarez (novelist) and "The Scheherazade Project: 101 Nights". Poetry.

Latino and Black Rap Meets American History.

* Ta-Nehisi Coates: "Conduction" (New Yorker 6/10-17/19).

Ta-Nehisi Coates: Recommended Non-Fiction: Between the World and Me. We Were Eight Years in Power. Fiction: The Water Dancer.

Week Three (Sept. 30)

Rita Dove Poem: "Pedestrian Crossing, Charlottesville" (6/29/20).

* Toni Morrison: "Sweetness" (New Yorker 2/9/15). Toni Morrison's Legacy.

* Cristina Henriquez: "Everything Is Far from Here" (New Yorker 6/10-17/17).

Joy Harjo: "Meet the First Native American Poet Laureate" (Short Video).

Week Four (October 7)

* Colson Whitehead: "The Match" (New Yorker 2/9/15).

* John Edgar Wideman: "Writing Teacher" (New Yorker 1/15/18).

John Felipe Herrera: US Poet Laureate reads "Imagine" (Short Video).

Read first half of James McBride: Deacon King Kong (novel). Finish novel before October 14. Recommended biography of McBride's mother: The Color of Water.

Week Five (Oct. 14)

* James McBride: Deacon King Kong (Full Discussion of novel. Q &A).

* Kirstin Valdez Quade: "The Manzanos" (Narrative Online Magazine) from Night at the Fiestas (recommended short story collection).

Week Six (Oct. 21)

Any Further Deacon King Kong Questions?

* Zadie Smith: "Crazy They Call Me" (New Yorker 2/26/17).

* Edgar P. Jones: "A Rich Man" (New Yorker 8/4/03).

Rudolfo Anaya Video (Time Permitting): The Inspiration for Bless Me Ultima.

Week Seven (Oct. 28)

- * Junot Diaz: “MFA vs POC” (The New Yorker 4/30/14) Narrative History.
- * Junot Diaz: “Watching Spiderman in Santo Domingo” (11/13/17): Narrative History.
- Junot Diaz: “Miss Lora” (New Yorker 4/16/12 recommended story (raunchy!!))
- *Edwidge Danticat: “Without Inspection” (New Yorker 5/4/18).
- David Wright Falade: “The Sand Banks, 1861” (New Yorker 8/31/20 recommended)

Week Eight (Nov. 4) Day after Election Day

- *Rita Dove: “Sambo or The Last of the Gibson Girls” (Narrative Online Mag. 2008).
- *Tiffany Yanique: “God’s Creation” (New Yorker 11/4/19).

Luis Alberto Urrea Speaks of his Borderland Background (video).
 Luis Alberto Urrea: The House of the Broken Angels (recommended “Fromm Book Club Novel for later discussion)

Final Thoughts and Questions

Recommended Additional Reading Resources:

Ed. Gates: The Norton Anthology of African American Literature Third Edition, Vol 2.

Ed. Stavans: The Norton Anthology of Latino Literature.

Colson Whitehead: The Underground Railroad (novel).

Ta-Nehisi Coates: The Water Dancer (novel). Between the World and Me (bio).

Luis Alberto Urrea: The House of Broken Angels (novel). The Devil’s Highway.

Kirsten Valdez Quade: Night at the Fiestas (short story collection).

Julia Alvarez: How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents (novel). Afterlife (novel).

Isabel Wilkerson: Caste: The Origin of Our Discontents. The Warmth of Other Suns.

Albert Murray: Stomping the Blues (The core elements of Jazz).

Leon Litwack: Trouble in Mind: Black Southerners in the Age of Jim Crow.

Henry Louis Gates Jr. : “The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross”. “Black American Since MLK: And Still I Rise”. “Black in Latin America” (Documentaries)

Toni Morrison: Beloved, The Song of Solomon, Jazz. “The Source of Self Regard: Essays, Speeches, Meditations” (Life’s Work 2019).

“The New Yorker” Online (Archives: stories, essays, book reviews, podcasts, etc.).

CINEMA and THEATRE----e.g “Beloved”, “Fences”, “Like Water for Chocolate”, “In the Time of the Butterflies”, “Hamilton”, “A Raisin in the Sun”, “Ragtime”.