

## The Power of an Illusion: Representing Race in US literature and popular culture

### March

- 6: Introduction to the Course - What Is Representation?
- 7: What Is Representation? (Stuart Hall)
- 8: What Is Representation? Visuality and Representation (Sturken & Cartwright, Mirzoeff)
- 13: Race and Representation: Morrison, "Recitatif" (Mirzoeff)
- 14: Exploring the White Mind: Herman Melville, *Benito Cereno* (Moriah)
- 15: Representing Rebellious Slaves: Herman Melville, *Benito Cereno*
- 20: Deconstructing 'Truth'? : Herman Melville, *Benito Cereno*
- 21: The Slave Narrative - Frederick Douglass, *Narrative* (Gould)
- 22: The Master-Slave Dialectic: Frederick Douglass, *Narrative*

### April

- 3: Male and Female Representations of Slavery: Fredrick Douglass, *Narrative*, and Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents* (Ernest)
- 4: Slavery and the Black Female Body: Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents* (hooks)
- 5: The Loophole of Retreat: Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents*
- 10: The New Negro, Harlem Renaissance and White Desire - Zora Neale Hurston, "Drenched in Light"
- 11: Zora Neale Hurston, "Drenched in Light"
- 12: Harlem, from Cultural Capital of Black America to Ghetto: Langston Hughes, "Mother to Son," "Harlem"
- 17: Harlem as a Ghetto - James Baldwin, "Sonny's Blues"
- 18: The Power of Mass Culture, Self-Hatred and Resilience – Toni Morrison, *The Bluest Eye*
- 19: The Power of Mass Culture, Self-Hatred and Resilience – Toni Morrison, *The Bluest Eye*

### May

- 2: Toni Morrison, *The Bluest Eye* (Smith, *Toni Morrison*)
- 3: Toni Morrison, *The Bluest Eye* (Werrlein, "Not so Fast, Dick and Jane")
- 8: Recap (end of 6 credits syllabus)
- 9: A Peculiar Institution? The Historiography of Slavery
- 10: Changes in the Historiography of Slavery; African Heritage and Slave Culture in the 1970s: Alice Walker, "Everyday Use" (Whitsitt)
- 15: The Neo-Slave Narrative: Challenging the American Narrative of the Past (Smith, "Neo-Slave")
- 16: The Neo-Slave Narrative: Challenging the American Narrative of the Past (Morrison, "Site")
- 17: The Neo-Slave Narrative: Challenging the American Narrative of the Past (Scacchi, "If You Go There")
- 22: Paule Marshall, *Praisesong for the Widow*
- 23: Paule Marshall, *Praisesong for the Widow* (Scacchi, "Never too Late")
- 24: Paule Marshall, *Praisesong for the Widow* (Turner Smith, "Women's Spiritual Geographies of the African Diaspora")
- 29: Paule Marshall, *Praisesong for the Widow*
- 30: Recap – Q&A session – Students' projects
- 31: Recap – Q&A session – Students' projects