

English 4871F Section 550

20th Century African American Women's Fiction

Course Description

This course will explore the prose work of African American writers, such as Toni Morrison and Alice Walker whose writing shows a paradoxical desire to celebrate and reject cultural traditions. Traditions which the writers feel have both disempowered black women and in many ways define their identity. With particular focus on the Harlem Renaissance and the Civil Rights Movement, we will assess the political aspects of the texts and the way in which literature can address current social issues.