

Black Girl Magic: African American Women’s Literature and Black Feminist Theory

Faculty: Prof. Kris Coffey -- coffeyk@evergreen.edu

Class Standing: All levels

Credit options: This is an 8-credit program

Program Description:

Black Girl Magic has gained much momentum in the last decade as an international social movement formed to “celebrate the beauty, power, and resilience of Black women.” However, the movement is also continuing the practice of participating in a dialogue that many African American women have invested in through fiction, poetry, and nonfiction over the last two hundred years.

This one-quarter, eight-credit program is **reading intensive** and will also explore past and contemporary texts, both critical and creative, that contribute to assembling of a black women’s literary canon and how it contributes to the larger canons of African American literature and global women’s literature. We will explore distinguished black female literary artists, including Alice Walker, Zora Neale Hurston, and Toni Morrison, as well as contemporary literary figures of the twenty-first century such as Jesymn Ward, Brittany C. Cooper, Roxane Gay and others. Our exploration aims to identify the African American women’s literary tradition and see these texts within a scholarly framework. What have and are literary and feminist scholars saying about the tradition?

Required Program Texts:

- Hopkins, Pauline. *Hagar’s Daughter: A Story of Southern Caste Prejudice*. Broadview (reprint 2020), 9781554815630
- Petry, Ann. *The Street*. Mariner Books (1955), 9780395901496
- Vernon, Olympia. *Eden*. Grove Press (2002), 9780802140401
- Ward, Jesymn. *Men we Reap*. Bloomsbury USA (2013), 9781608197651
- Supplemental readings will be posted to Canvas.

<p><u>Weekly Program Schedule:</u></p> <p><i>Tuesday 10am – 1pm</i></p> <p><i>Thursday – 10am—1 pm</i></p>	<p><u>Assignments:</u></p> <p><i>Common Book & Text Analyses</i></p> <p><i>Analysis Quiz & Synthesis Essay</i></p> <p><i>Lyric Essay</i></p>
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First class meeting: Tuesday, March 31st 2025 in SEM IIC2105