

476G : THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE

Midterm Essay Assignment

Due March 6

Topic: Close Reading

This assignment asks you to choose a single, short passage, read it very closely, and connect it to the book in which it appears. Then, connect it to other Harlem Renaissance texts we've discussed. The focus passage should be short enough that you can discuss it exhaustively in five pages, but not so short that you run out of things to say. It is to your advantage to choose a text you intend to include in the research essay, so as to get a head start.

You are also welcome to focus on a particular work of visual art. To do so, you would need to discuss the work as a whole and connect it to the Harlem Renaissance.

It is probably *not* the best idea, however, to aim for a comprehensive reading of a book, which would likely lead to a string of unsubstantiated generalizations. Instead, with literature, choose a narrow topic that resonates and then cover it well.

There is no research requirement for this assignment. If you choose to include secondary sources, you will need to use MLA documentation. Refer to the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* for directions.

Format

This assignment should be double-spaced throughout and paginated. It should reach approximately five pages.

Please do not cite the passage upfront, then turning backwards to it during your discussion. The focus passage should be fully integrated into your paragraphs.

Follow every citation with its page number(s), unless you are reciting a few works of quote that has already received an in-text citation. Remember that it is bad form to surround a block quote with outside quotation marks, unless these appear in the original text.

You do not need a cover page. At the top of the first page, place your *original title* and your name.