

# English 400-01

## Seminar

CRN: 20621

# The Harlem Renaissance

Thursdays, 4 – 6:45 pm



"Blues"

Alfred J. Motley, 1929

Known as "The New Negro Movement" and later as the Harlem Renaissance, the period from roughly 1920 to 1940 saw an unprecedented outburst of creative activity among African Americans in all artistic fields. In the midst of legalized segregation and heightened anti-black violence, African Americans in larger numbers than ever responded by reclaiming the right to represent themselves in a wide range of artistic media.

This seminar will examine plays, novels, short stories, and poetry by canonical and non-canonical Harlem Renaissance figures including Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, Countee Cullen, Claude McKay, Nella Larsen, Richard Nugent, Jesse Redmon Fausett, W.E.B. Du Bois, and James Weldon Johnson. We will also explore the cultural and historical conditions that produced this cultural revolution, the effects of which were felt around the world and have since left a rich cultural legacy that continues to shape American and international literature.

As a capstone seminar, the course will also explore career opportunities for English majors, and students will carry out course projects related to their career goals.