

Graduate Course Descriptions

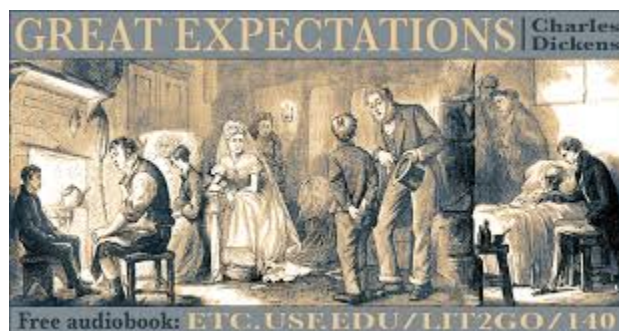
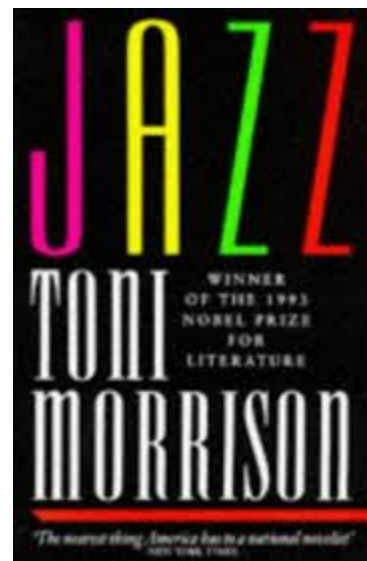
Department of English

Northern Illinois University

Summer 2019



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Summer 2019 Course Schedule

Course	Sect	Class #	TITLE	Day	TIME	FACULTY	Room #
691/363	0001	2466	Topics in Film & Literature: Blues & Jazz in Literature & Film	TTH	2:00-4:45	Ryan	DU 270
696	P001	1260	Practicum in the Teaching of College English	TBD	TBD	Gorman	TBD
697	P001	1699	English Institute	TBD	TBD	Gorman	TBD
698	P001	1838	Independent Reading	TBD	TBD	Staff	TBD
699	P001	1804	Master's Thesis	TBD	TBD	Gorman	TBD
799	P001	1698	Doctoral Dissertation	TBD	TBD	Gorman	TBD

ENGL 691 – Topics in Film and Literature: Blues and Jazz in Literature and Film

Dr. Tim Ryan

TTh 2:00-4:45 pm

DU 270

Description:

In this class, we will examine a variety of literary and cinematic works that engage with (or relate in some way to) jazz and/or blues music. Although blues and jazz have had an immense impact upon American and global culture, the significant works and artists of these musical traditions remain relatively marginal in the popular imagination today, certainly in comparison to the ubiquitous productions of the rock era. For this reason, the course assumes no pre-existing knowledge of blues and jazz, and provides an introduction to the histories of these musical forms, as well as to selected recordings by major artists. We will also learn more about the subject through excerpts from critical and historical studies.

This class thus provides a survey of canonical twentieth-century literature and film, an exploration of modernist/African American culture, and an introduction to the emerging field of music and literature/film studies. This class also contributes to academic professionalization through writing, workshopping, and presentation of scholarly papers.

Texts:

Our primary texts will be:

James Weldon Johnson. *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man* (1912)

Blues in the Night (dir. Anatole Litvak, 1941)

Michael Ondaatje. *Coming Through Slaughter* (1976)

August Wilson. *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* (1984)

Toni Morrison. *Jazz* (1992)

Bill Harris. *Robert Johnson: Trick the Devil* (1995)

Whiplash (dir. Damien Chazelle, 2014)

The course will also include short stories, poetry, songs, music, short films, and excerpts from secondary scholarship—all available via electronic reserve on Blackboard—by such writers, musicians, filmmakers, and scholars as Louis Armstrong, James Baldwin, Thomas Brothers, James Lincoln Collier, Angela Davis, Duke Ellington, Ralph Ellison, William Faulkner, Adam Gussow, Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, Robert Johnson, Gjon Mili, Charlie Parker, Bessie Smith, and Eudora Welty.

