

Finding Zora: A Research Adventure Among the Archives

ANG 6930 Sec. 08C3 ANT 4930 Sec. 08C5 AFA 4905 Sec.4906

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Co-Instructors: Florence Turcotte & Jana Smith Ronan

Time & Place: TUR Rm 2354 Tue – 4:05 - 4:55 and

Library East Conference Rm Thu– 4:-05 – 6 PM

Alternative Thursday meetings will be held in FLI Rm 0113 by advance notice only.

Final Exam Day: May 2nd 10am – 12pm Class Listservs: SPRING-4906-L@lists.ufl.edu, SPRING-08C3-L@lists.ufl.edu,
SPRING-08C5-L@lists.ufl.edu



Figure 1 Hurston performing with one of her plays.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Finding Zora: A Research Adventure Among the Archives is designed to be a multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary research course that uses the Zora Neale Hurston Collection in the University of Florida Archives as the primary source for data in the production of new knowledge on the life and/or times of Zora Neale Hurston. The multidisciplinary internationally renowned literary figure, trained as an anthropologist, was the daughter of the mayor of Eatonville, FL, the oldest Black city in the United States. This contemporary of Harlem Renaissance authors led a controversial and some might say “tragic life.” Through the use of her private papers, manuscripts, and other library resources, and the incorporation of guest lecturers, students will explore the possibilities of her day-to-day lived experiences. The course suggests the letters, pages of her journals, recordings, and videos that document her life’s journey are important guides to that understanding.

OBJECTIVES

Finding Zora is a research-oriented lab-based course with a two-fold purpose. 1) Through the exploration of the Hurston collection at the university of Florida students produce new knowledge about this dynamic multidisciplinary figure and 2) develop the research and critical thinking skills through training that teaches how to conduct archival research, use library databases and computer based software designed to enhance the research experience, and analyze qualitative data.

COURSE INSIGHTS, REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION PROCESS

The course not only requires that you attend class meetings but you be highly motivated. Research can be exciting but it does require an ability to overcome procrastination since most of your activities toward a final project must be self-motivated. There is no other way to put it; there is a great deal of reading involved library and archival research. We will provide benchmarks along the way to help keep you on schedule since it is difficult to make up the time. While skimming and scanning are great first starts of materials neither are substitutes for final readings in the production of original scholarship. As a result, you have a limited amount of assigned readings, which provides you the time you need for reading in the archives.

In addition to attendance and classroom participation, you will be evaluated for the following exercises: 1) an archive module proficiency exercise, 2) Library West resource and EndNotes/RefWorks proficiency quiz, 3) Research topic, 4) Annotated bibliography, 5) Paper outline, 6) Atlas.ti proficiency and 7) Research paper (12-15 pages conference paper style for undergrads to be presented on final exam day/pages determined by selected journal for grads plus present summary of work on final exam day).

LINK TO COURSE GUIDE: <http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/content.php?pid=6901&sid=2389121>

ASSIGNMENTS (Non-textbook reading assignments can be accessed through Library West Course Reserve.)

Week 1 – Introduction to Course - “What Are Archives and How Do We Use Them?”

1/10 – Introduction to Course and African American Studies

1/12 – How Do We Use Archives? How do they fit into a Black Studies Paradigm?

Assigned Readings:

Hemenway, Robert. “Introduction” in *Dust Tracks on a Road: An Autobiography*. ed. Robert Hemenway (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1984), pp. ix

Week 2 - “Introducing Zora and Her Works”

1/17

Assigned Readings

Hurston, Zora. “My Birthplace,” “My Folks,” and “I Get Born” *Dust Tracks on a Road: An Autobiography*. ed. Robert Hemenway (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1984), pp. 3-32

1/19 – Perusing the Collection

HAND OUTS WILL BE AVAILABLE THROUGH COURSE RESERVE

Assigned Readings

“Introduction to Archives and Manuscripts” in *Developing and Maintaining Practical Archives*, by Gregory S. Hunter. New York: Neal-Schuman Publishers, 2004. , p.1-20.

Week 3 - “Choosing a Research Topic in African American Studies”

1/24 – What Makes Research an African American Studies Topic

Assigned Readings

Hurston, Zora. “Inside Search” *Dust Tracks on a Road: An Autobiography*. ed. Robert Hemenway (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1984), pp. 33-60

1/26 – Adventures in Library West with Librarian Jana Smith Ronan – Library West

Assignment: Note five (5) key issues that interest you thus far about Hurston’s life.

Week 4 – “The Value of Newspaper Databases”

1/31 – Enhancing Your Research with Technology

Assigned Readings

Hurston, Zora. “Figure and Fancy” and “Wandering” *Dust Tracks on a Road: An Autobiography*. ed. Robert Hemenway (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1984), pp. 61-96

2/2 – Enhancing Your Research with Technology Continued

Assigned Readings

Week 5 – “Building Your Bibliography”

2/7 – RESEARCH TOPIC DUE BY 8 AM

Assigned Readings

Harrison, Faye V. “Remapping Anthropology’s Peripheral Zones” *Keynotes in Anthropology*, eds., Peter J.M. Nas, Hao Shiyuan, Zhang Xiaomin.

2/9 – Excavating Zora with Dr. Irma McClaurin

Assigned Readings

McClaurin, Irma. Zora Neale Hurston: Enigma, Heterodox, and Progenitor of Black Studies. *Fire!!!: The Multimedia Journal of Black Studies* 2012:1.49-67.

__"Salvaging Lives in the African Diaspora: Anthropology, Ethnography, and Women's Narratives" *Souls: A Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture, and Society* (1999) 3.1.25-39.

__"Belle Lettres: 'Dear Langston, Love Zora'" *FlaVour: Black Florida Life & Style* (2000) Autumn , 16-19.

Week 6 – "Historical Research"

2/14 – What are the Key Elements for Conducting Historical Research

Assigned Readings

Hurston, Zora. "Jacksonville and After," and "Backstage and the Railroad" *Dust Tracks on a Road: An Autobiography*. ed. Robert Hemenway (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1984), pp. 97-143

2/16 – BEGIN TO BUILD PRIMARY SOURCES THAT REFLECT YOUR TOPIC

Assigned Readings

"Archival Principles of Arrangement" by T.R. Schellenberg, in *A Modern Archives Reader: Basic Readings on Archival Theory and Practice*, Maygene F. Daniels and Timothy Walch, eds. National Archives and Records Service, Washington, DC, 1984. P. 149-161.

Week 7 – "The Paper and Pencil Approach: Making Note Cards"

2/21 – Documenting with Note Cards

Assigned Readings

Hurston, Zora. "School Again" *Dust Tracks on a Road: An Autobiography*. ed. Robert Hemenway (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1984), pp. 144-173.

2/23 –BEGIN TO BUILD SECONDARY SOURCES THAT REFLECT ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH YOUR TOPIC

Assigned Readings -

Week 8 - "The Computerized Approach to Collecting and Organizing Your Data"

2/28 – Organizing Your Data for Computer Input

Assigned Readings

Hurston, Zora. "Research," *Dust Tracks on a Road: An Autobiography*. ed. Robert Hemenway (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1984), pp. 174-206

3/1 – Conducting Content and Textual Analysis

HAND OUTS WILL BE AVAILABLE THROUGH COURSE RESERVE

Week 9 – SPRING BREAK

3/6 & 3/8

Week 10 – Conducting Original Research

3/13 – ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY WITH THESIS STATEMENT DUE BY 8AM

Assigned Readings



Figure 2 Hurston with boys in Eatonville.

Hurston, Zora. "Books and Things," "My People! My People!" and "Two Women in Particular" *Dust Tracks on a Road: An Autobiography*. ed. Robert Hemenway (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1984), pp. 206-248.

3/15 – Writing Across the Disciplines

HAND OUTS WILL BE AVAILABLE THROUGH COURSE RESERVE

Week 11 – Conducting Original Research Continued

3/20 - Writing Cultural Critiques

HAND OUTS WILL BE AVAILABLE THROUGH COURSE RESERVE

Assigned Readings

Hurston, Zora. "Love," "Religion" and "Looking Things Over" *Dust Tracks on a Road: An Autobiography*. ed. Robert Hemenway (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1984), pp. 249-286.

3/22 – PAPER OUTLINE DUE BY MIDNIGHT

LAB

Week 12 – Conducting Original Research Continued

3/27 - Exercises in Content and Textual Analysis

Assigned Readings

Hurston, Zora. "Appendix," *Dust Tracks on a Road: An Autobiography*. ed. Robert Hemenway (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1984), pp. 287-348.

3/29 – FIRST DRAFT OF PAPER DUE BY MIDNIGHT

LAB

Week 13 – Conducting Original Research Continued

4/3

TBA

4/5

TBA

Week 14 – Conducting Original Research Continued

4/10

TBA

4/12

TBA

Week 15 – Conducting Original Research Continued

4/17 – SECOND DRAFT OF PAPER DUE

Assigned Readings

TBA

4/19



Figure 3 Hurston in New York City

Assigned Readings

TBA

Week 16 – Conducting Original Research Continued

4/24 – How to Prepare Your Presentations for Final Exam Day

CLASSROOM RULES & DECORUM AND OTHER RELATED POLICIES

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. No emailing, texting, cell phone calls, or Internet games in the classroom. Absence and tardiness due to medical reasons require appropriate medical excuses.

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

Grade Points		Grade Scale	
Attendance/Lab Work	10%/10%	A=90 and above	C=70-73
Research Topic	5%	A-=87-89	C-=67-69
Annotated Bibliography and Thesis	15%	B+=84-86	D+=64-66
Archive Module Exam	10%	B=80-83	D=60-63
Endnote/RefWorks Proficiency	5%	B-=77-79	D-=57-59
Atlas.ti Proficiency (Note Cards)	10%	C+=74-76	
Paper Outline	5%		
Final Paper/Presentation	25%/5%		

OTHER IMPORTANT ONLINE RESOURCES:

Zora Neal Hurston Chronology (1891-1960):

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/hurston/znhchron.html>

Library of Congress “The Zora Neale Hurston Plays at the LOC”:

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/hurston/>

Library of Congress Digital Collection: <http://www.loc.gov/library/libarch-digital.html>

LOC “American Life Histories”: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/wpaintro/wpahome.html>

Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library (Digital Collection):

<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/digitalguides/>