

Spring 1-15-2008

# ENG 2009G-001

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2009G-001

Professor John Martone  
English 2009G 01  
MWF 8:00, CH 3170

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Office: CH 3751  
Hours: W 12-2

### *Finding Our Place*

This course examines how ordinary people respond to various forms of pressure from “above,” as they try to find a place for themselves in an unwelcoming world. We will take up a range of topics, including: systems of bondage; notions of property, identity, and belonging; forms of homelessness; distinctiveness and disability; iron manacles and those that are ‘mind-forged.’ In addition to reading and discussing a variety of autobiographies and two novels, you will write two short papers and two examinations.

Andrews, *Six Women Slave Narratives*

*Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project 1936-1938*

<<http://www.memory.loc.gov/ammem/snhtml/snhome.html>>

Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of... an American Slave* <<http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/DouNarr.html>>

Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* <<http://xroads.virginia.edu/~Hyper/JACOBS/hjhome.htm>>

Hayslip, *When Heaven and Earth Changed Places*

Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

Williams, *Nobody Nowhere*

Wright, *Native Son*

### **Schedule**

#### **January**

7, 9, 11 Introductory; Douglass, *Narrative*. <<http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/DouNarr.html>>

14, 16, 18 Douglass, cont'd;

(21), 23, 25 Jacobs, *Incidents*. <<http://xroads.virginia.edu/~Hyper/JACOBS/hjhome.htm>>

28, 30, Feb. 1 *Born in Slavery: Voices and Faces from the Collection* <http://www.memory.loc.gov/ammem/snhtml/snvoices00.html>

#### **February**

4, 6, 8 Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

11, 13 Hurston, cont'd.

18, 20, 22 Wright, *Native Son*

25, 27, 29 Wright, cont'd.

#### **March**

3, 5, 7 Review; midterm examination; background to American war in Vietnam

(10, 12, 14 Spring Break)

17, 19, 21 Hayslip, *When Heaven and Earth Changed Places*.

24, 26, 28 Hayslip, cont'd.

31 April 2, 4 View *Dark Days*.

7, 9, 11 Williams, *Nobody Nowhere*.

14, 16, 18 Williams, cont'd.

21, 23, 25 Final projects.

### **Evaluation**

Your final grade will reflect an average of your performance on four pieces of work:

Short paper (3-5 pages), due February 4: 25

Midterm examination: 25 points

Short paper (3-5 pages), due April 25

Final examination