

## **Reading the Harlem Renaissance with Dr. Michele Lisa Simms-Burton**

One of the most creative and intellectually productive eras in African American history, the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s was fueled by the contributions of African Americans in music, art, and literature. Informed by the Rosenbach's Langston Hughes and Alain Locke holdings, during the four sessions of this course, we will read and discuss works by four prominent Harlem Renaissance writers and intelligentsia: Alain Locke, Langston Hughes, Nella Larsen, and Zora Neale Hurston.

### **Texts**

ISBN numbers are for suggested editions. Please read all the books before their scheduled sessions.

*The New Negro: Voices of the Harlem Renaissance* edited by Alain Locke (978-0684838311)

*The Weary Blues: Verse Harmonies of Struggle, Hope, and Resilience in the Heart of Harlem (Illustrated)* by Langston Hughes (9798873986927)

*Passing* by Nella Larsen (978-1694407474)

*Their Eyes Are Watching God* (978-0061120060)

### **2/4 The Great Migration, "The Warmth of Other Suns," Modernism and the "New Negro Aesthetics"**

Alain Locke's *The New Negro*

### **2/18 The Young Turks**

Langston Hughes and *The Weary Blues*

### **3/4 Women Writers of the Harlem Renaissance**

Nella Larsen and *Passing*

### **3/18 She Was Every Woman**

Zora Neale Hurston and *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

### **About the Instructor**

Historian and scholar **Michele L. Simms-Burton**, a former professor of African-American studies at Howard University, leads discussions that examine the creators and the works that came alive during the Harlem Renaissance, a period whose influence continues to be felt.