

Center for Lifetime Study

Semester: Fall 2020

Course: African American Literature

Instructor: Jacqueline Goffe-McNish

Time: Tuesdays 2:45 to 4:00

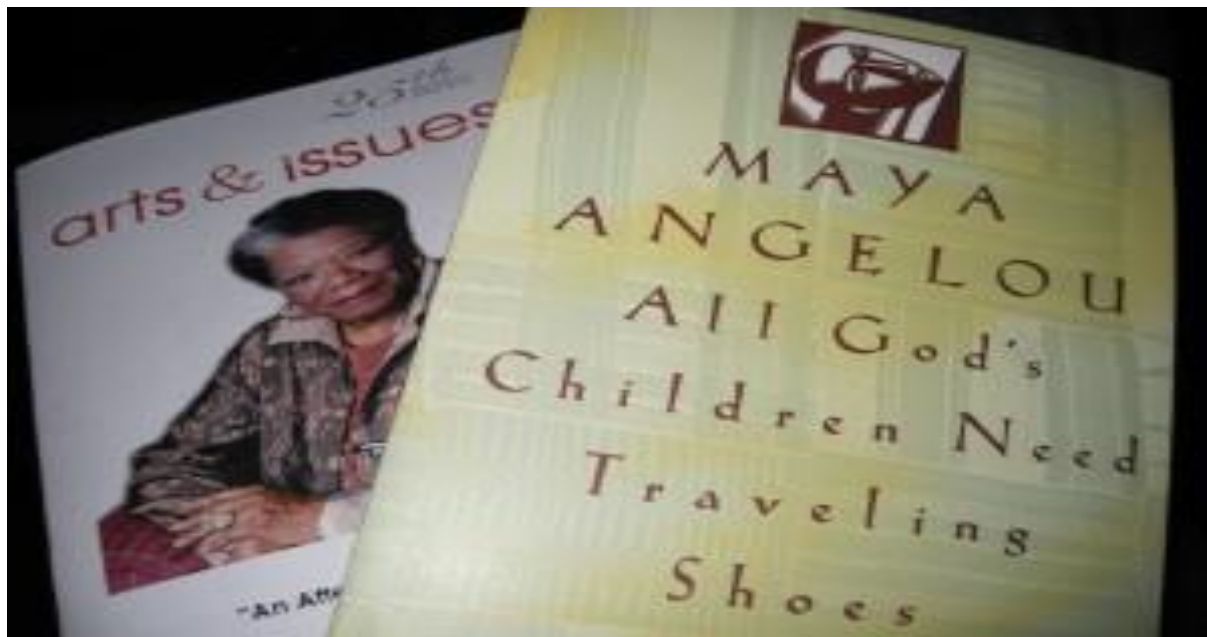
Room: Locust Groove

Phone #: 431-8445

Email: mcnish@sunydutchess.edu

Book: All God's Children Need Travelling Shoes by Maya Angelou

- Guidelines**
1. Please read the sections assigned before the class.
 2. Please focus your discussions on the text being discussed.



Schedule

- September 9** Introduction of Class Members
Introduction to African-American Literature
Analysis of the Title
Overview of Text
Read pages 3-10
- September 16** Cultural Analysis and Setting Analysis
Feminist and Womanist Analysis
Sisyphean Experience and Search for El Dorado
Read pages 11-24
- September 23** Character Analysis
African Diaspora
Reverse Middle Passage
The Journey
Epiphany
Read pages 25-39
- September 30** The Clash between the Circle and the Arrow
Intersectionality
Post Colonialism
The Language of the People
Read pages 40-77
- October 7** The African Diaspora, Middle passage Experience
Masking, Veiling, and Double Consciousness
Music as the voice of the people
Read pages 78-96
- October 14** Anancism and Signifying
The Role of Africa
Role of Religion
Read pages 97-119

Essay Topics

All God's Children Need Travelling Shoes by Maya Angelou.

1. Discuss Angelou's presentation of the culture of Africa.
2. Angelou discovers that she is America. This separates her from other Africans. Discuss the evidences in the text which confirms this notion.
3. Discuss the role of Julian in the novel.
4. How is the 'March on Washington' used to mark the pivotal point of this novel?
5. Discuss the use of proverbs in the novel.
6. Discuss the ways in which your view of African has been affected by reading this novel.
7. Compare and contrast Angelou's presentation of Africa with Achebe's presentation.
8. Angelou discovers that "Despite the murders, rapes, and suicides, we had survived." Discuss the evidences she presents in the text to support this assertion.
9. Is this a reverse middle passage experience or a middle passage experience? Discuss.
10. Prejudice is a burden which confuses the past, threatens the future, and renders the present inaccessible. Discuss this comment in light of this novel by Angelou.
11. Roscoe tells Angelou to "Be careful, dear girl, that Africa doesn't take away all your cynicism. You have become dangerously young." Discuss this as a major theme in the text.
12. Discuss the presentation of creolization in the novel.

Issues in the Text:

1. Magical Realism
2. Presentation of Africa
3. Symbolic Geography

- 4. Presentation of Culture**
- 5. Masking, Veiling, and Double Consciousness**
- 6. Sisyphean Experience**
- 7. Search for El Dorado**
- 8. Epiphany**
- 9. Connection between Nature and Human Condition**
- 10. Role of Women**
- 11. Role of the Supernatural**
- 12. Biblical Allusion**
- 13. Presentation of Journeys**
- 14. Submersion**
- 15. Post-Colonization**
- 16. Proverbs and Stories as Language**
- 17. Role of Rum**
- 18. Creolization**
- 19. Sisyphean Experience**
- 20. African Diaspora**
- 21. Reverse Middle Passage**
- 22. The Role of the Unconscious**
- 23. Music as Voice**