

## **Center for Lifetime Study**

**Semester:** Fall 2025

**Course:** African American Literature

**Instructor:** Dr. Jacqueline Goffe-McNish

**Time:** Thursday 11:00

**Zoom:** <https://marist-edu.zoom.us/j/83251031010?pwd=A5lWWByGg0Kt36a2Mr29tSeh2dCcST.1>

Meeting ID: 832 5103 1010

Passcode: 318253

**Phone Number:** 845-471-7220

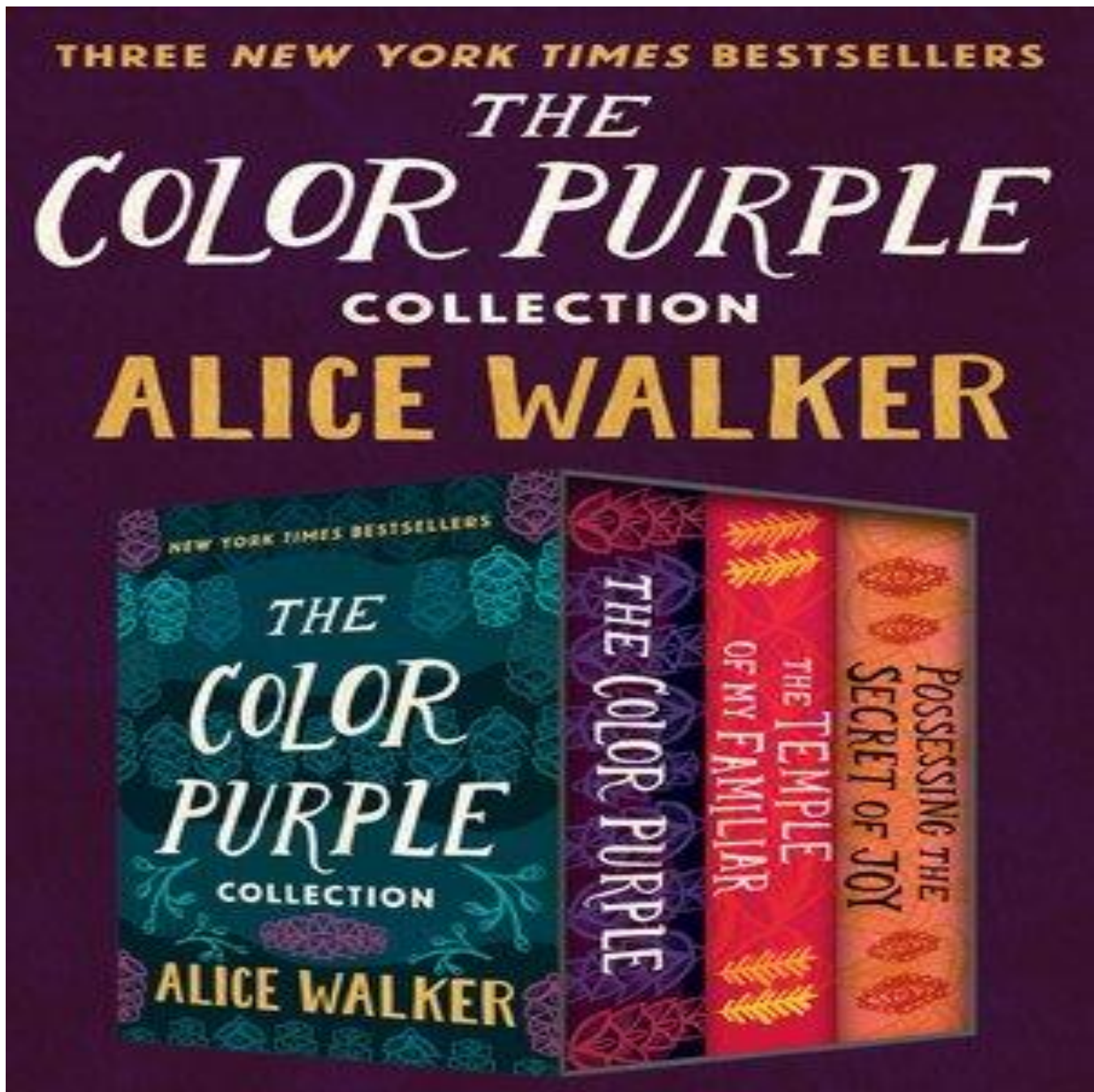
**Email:** [mcnish@sunydutchess.edu](mailto:mcnish@sunydutchess.edu) and [goffemcnish@gmail.com](mailto:goffemcnish@gmail.com)

**Texts:** Color Purple by Alice Walker

Possessing the Secret of Joy by Alice Walker

Guidelines 1. Please read the sections assigned before the class.

2. Please focus your discussions on the text being discussed.



## Schedule

**September 11** Introduction of Class Members

Introduction to Literature

Introduction to Color Purple by Alice Walker

**September 18** Discussion of letters 1-22

Cultural Analysis, Sisyphean Experience, Religious Allusion, and Search for El Dorado

Character Analysis, Epiphany, Setting Analysis, Analysis of Symbols.

**October 2** Discussion of letters 23-44

Magical Realism, Connection between Nature and Human Condition.

**October 9** Discussion of letters 45-66

Masking, Veiling, and Double Consciousness, Post Colonialism, Role of Religion.

**October 16** Discussion of letters 67-88

Historical Analysis, Role of African Diaspora, Naming, Intersectionality.

**October 23** Possessing the Secret of Joy

Discussion of Parts 1-7

Presentation of Journeys, Submersion, Deconstruction.

**October 30** Discussion of Part 8-15

Creolization, Identity.

**November 6** Discussion of Parts 16-21

Summary

Journal

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**Issues in the Texts:**

Biblical Allusions

Search for El Dorado

Magical Realism (3)

Epiphany

Symbolic geography

Presentation of death (3)

Postcolonialism

Creolization

Masking,

Veiling,

Double Consciousness

Submersion

Surrealism

Role of Religion

Role of Culture

Deconstruction

Womanist Analysis

Role of Rum

Role of Supernatural

Nature and Human Condition

Signifying

Role of Africa

African Diaspora

Middle Passage

Silhouetting

Role of Language- Proverbs Storytelling and Pidgin

Naming

Music as the voice of the people

Feminist Analysis

Journeys

Sisyphean Experience

Biblical Allusions