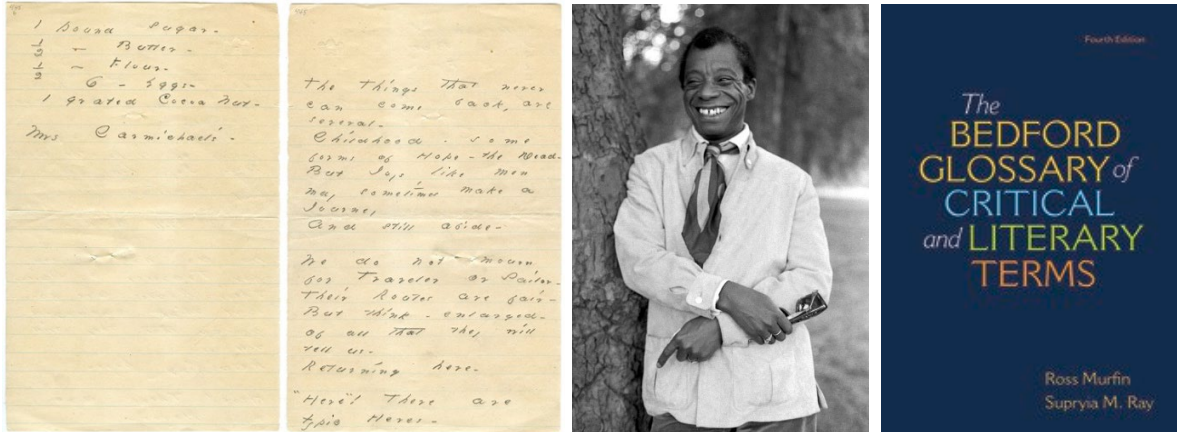


ENGL 209: Foundations of Literary Criticism Fall 2022

Instructor: Cynthia Spada

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(Emily Dickinson, "The things that never can come back, are several," publicdomainreview.org; James Baldwin, [Wikipedia Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:James_Baldwin.jpg))

Course description:

How does a poem or a story work? What makes one critical interpretation of a poem or story more convincing than another? How does the material form of a poem or story affect its meaning? What is the relationship between an author's life and times and their literary output? This course will consider these questions and provide you with concrete tools for analyzing literature, with a focus on close reading, writing, and research skills.

In-class analysis will expand your critical vocabulary; regular written assignments, instructor feedback on your writing, and in-class writing workshops will hone your writing skills; and hands-on workshops in McPherson Library's Special Collections will enhance your archival research skills.

You will emerge from this course as a more confident literary critic, a stronger writer, and a more effective researcher. This course is recommended for English Majors and any student wishing to strengthen their literary critical, analytical, and writing skills.

Proposed Assignments:

Three short essays/close readings (2-3 pp): 60%
In-class mid-term test: 20%
In-class critical Insight presentation (5 mins max): 10%
Book History/Special Collections assignment: 10%

Required Texts:

Ross Murfin & Supryia M. Ray, *The Bedford Glossary of Critical and Literary Terms*, 3rd edition
Brit Bennett, *The Vanishing Half*
+ poems, stories, and essays to be distributed in class