Race, Print Culture, and Digital Humanities
ENGL 604/ENGL 304

The course fulfills the following distribution requirements:

- One course organized around concepts, issues, or themes, rather than chronologically
- One course in theory (any kind of theory, including composition/rhetoric and linguistics)
- One course in English without Borders (transnational and/or diasporic literatures/cultures/theory; interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary study; cultural study of film, digital technologies, new media, popular culture)

The course cuts across three primary areas of scholarly inquiry: critical race studies, print culture studies, and digital humanities. The course will consist of traditional class discussion and lab days that bridge theoretical with the methodological and applied contents of the course.

Course topics include:

- The history of print culture and race, with a particular focus on black bibliography in the United States
- Impact of institutional structures (archives and libraries, print and oral distribution networks, disciplinary concerns) on the history of black bibliography
- Case studies demonstrating the complexities and histories of black texts that illustrate particular archival/bibliographical problems
- Contemporary theoretical and methodological concerns regarding the impact of digital humanities on diverse literatures
- Theory and practice of remediation, both literal (digitizing “lost” bibliographies) and theoretical (what “remedies” to the loss or neglect of the African-American archive can and should scholars pursue? what are their implications?)

Selected texts and resources:

**Case studies:**

- Dave the Potter
- James Weldon and J. Rosamund Johnson's poems and music; Aaron Douglass illustrations ("Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing," 1899; God's Trombones, 1927)
- Martin Delaney, *Blake*
- Frances Ellen Watkins Harper’s anti-slavery poetry
- Dorothy Porter

Selected Critical texts:
Accessible Archives.


Diasporic Archives.


Ramsby, Howard. *Cultural Front* (blog). See, for example, the discussion of P. Gabrielle Foreman’s "Riff, Call, and Response" in December 2013.

**Assignments:**

Graduate students will complete the following:

1. **Course Project:** Drawing on Black Bibliography scholarship by Abdul Alkalimat, students will examine the history of African-American literature through the completion of a black bibliography database and visualization project.
2. **Final Paper:** Students will write a 12-18 page research paper on a selected topic related to issues explored in this course.