

Prof. Dr. Maryemma Graham

Biography

Maryemma Graham has been with the Department of English in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences since 1998, including one year as the Langston Hughes Visiting Professor. In 1983, she founded and continues to direct the Project on the History of Black Writing, which has been in the forefront of inclusion efforts in higher education for 29 years. It is the only archive of its kind dedicated to literary recovery, professional development, public outreach and digital access. She is the author or editor of 10 books, including "The Cambridge History of African American Literature" (with Jerry W. Ward, Jr.), the first comprehensive African American literary history to be published in the 21st century. She is perhaps best known for her public outreach in the humanities, where she has facilitated inter institutional networks of peers nationally and globally, and coordinated large scale public programs that extend the reach of academic scholarship. At KU, Graham founded the Langston Hughes National Poetry Project. While President of the Toni Morrison Society, she created Language Matters, an international teaching initiative. Most recently, she convened the Haiti Research Initiative reestablishing lines of communication with a country with which KU has had a longstanding relationship. Graham has been a John Hope Franklin Fellow at the National Humanities Center, an ACLS fellow, a Hall Center fellow, and a recipient of more than 15 grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Ford Foundation, and the Mellon Foundation. Recognition at KU includes induction into the Women's Hall of Fame, and the Steeples Service to Kansas Award. Graham received a bachelor's in English and journalism from University of North Carolina, a master's in English from Northwestern University, a master's in Africana Studies from Cornell University, and a doctorate in English from Cornell. In 2012, Graham will publish her first multimedia book, "Margaret Walker's South", from the University Press of Mississippi and in 2013, Oxford University Press will release her long awaited biography, "The House Where My Soul Lives: the Life of Margaret Walker".

GENDER-GASTPROFESSUR WS 2012/13

Die Gender-Gastprofessur an der Universität Bielefeld

Mit der Einrichtung einer Gender-Gastprofessur als fakultätsübergreifende „Wanderprofessur“ setzt die Universität Bielefeld gemeinsam mit den Fakultäten ein Zeichen für die Stärkung von genderspezifischen Inhalten in Forschung und Lehre. Ausgebaut wird hiermit die Vermittlung und Verankerung von genderbezogenen Wissensbeständen in den einzelnen Disziplinen sowie eine stärkere Sichtbarmachung von Frauen in Forschung und Lehre.

Im Studienjahr 2010/11 wurde erstmalig die Gender-Gastprofessur an der Fakultät für Rechtswissenschaft initiiert und eingeführt. Im Studienjahr 2011/12 übernahm die Fakultät für Gesundheitswissenschaften das äußerst erfolgreich angelauene Konzept. Hieran anschließend wird die Fakultät für Linguistik und Literaturwissenschaft im Studienjahr 2012 / 13 die Gender-Gastprofessur weiterführen.

Dabei setzt die Einrichtung der Gender-Gastprofessur die Bemühungen um eine strukturelle Absicherung von Geschlechterforschung und interdisziplinärem Austausch fort. Innerhalb der Universität fügt sich diese Initiative in die Zielsetzung des Rektorats ein, Gleichstellungsfragen sowie Gender- und Diversity-Themen zu stärken.

Weitere Informationen unter:
www.uni-bielefeld.de/gender/gendergastprofessur.html



Visiting Professor for Gender Studies
Prof. Dr. Maryemma Graham

Ain't I a Woman:

The Intellectual Space of Women/Gender Studies in the 21st Century Academy

16.01.2013, Mi 16 – 18 in T2-227

Vortrag von Prof. Dr. Maryemma Graham (University of Kansas) im Rahmen einer gemeinsam von der Ringvorlesung Gender Studies interdisziplinär, dem Interamerikanischen Forschungskolloquium sowie dem Kolloquium der Literaturwissenschaft durchgeführten Veranstaltung.

GENDER-GASTPROFESSUR UNIVERSITÄT BIELEFELD

Visiting Professor for Gender Studies
Prof. Dr. Maryemma Graham

WS 2012/13



Im Sommersemester 2013 wird Prof. Dr. Maryemma Graham weitere Veranstaltungen im Rahmen der Gender-Gastprofessur anbieten.

Weitere Informationen unter:

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Gender and Memoirs

04.10.2012 – 07.10.2012, 10.00 – 20.00h

Perhaps the most visible impact of the criticisms of the binary models of the organization of gender and sexuality and challenges to a belief in the transparency of language has been on developments in the contemporary memoir, a mode of life writing that has gained enormous popularity beginning in the late twentieth century. In this seminar we will explore the implications of this as it pertains to gender. First, we will examine the shift from autobiography to the current trend in memoir, which, according to Julie Rak, acknowledges the changing relationship between ideas of selfhood (from unitary to multiple, dispersed, relational, intersectional) and the role of public and private spheres in late capitalism. Our question is why are women, including women of color, especially drawn to the form? To help answer this question, we will look at the theoretical reframings in ethnic, feminist (American and French), queer, and postcolonial studies more generally as they pertain to identity, memory, authority/agency, space/place, and autobiographical truth.

A selection of memoirs will constitute our primary reading:

Edwidge Danticat | Brother, I'm Dying

Maxine Hong Kingston | Woman Warrior

Rigoberta Menchu | I, Rigoberta Menchu: An Indian Woman in Guatemala

Hugo Hamilton, The Speckled People

Rebecca Walker | Black, White, and Jewish: Autobiography of a Shifting Self

Audre Lourde | Zami: A New Spelling of My Name

African American Women Writers

12.01.2013 – 13.01.2013 /
19.01.2013 – 20.01.2013, 10.00 – 20.00h

Although Phillis Wheatley was the first published black author in the US, it would take nearly 200 years for African American women writers to gain major recognition. While this course will consider the reasons for this, both literary and socio-political, as part of our background information, our main task will involve an intergenerational inquiry into selected African American women's literature. Using the tools of contemporary cultural criticism, feminist literary analysis and post-colonial theory, we will engage in an intergenerational and intertextual dialogue of six writers (1 poet, and 5 prose writers) whose historical, special and cultural imperatives differ widely. The method will be necessarily comparative since we will be looking at more than a half century of black women's writing.

The books we will read and a preliminary study question for each follow:

Zora Neale Hurston | Their Eyes were Watching God

Discussion question: Why does the traditional folk novel seem appropriate for Hurston's period and theme?

Alice Walker | Meridian

Discussion question: How does Walker use personal transformation to map social change?

Audre Lorde | Zami

How are Lorde's choices influenced by gender and sexual identity?

Toni Morrison | Beloved

Discussion Question: How does Morrison revise and challenge the conventions of the slave narrative?

Rita Dove | Thomas and Beulah

Discussion Question: How is narrative history reconfigured in a feminine poetic voice?

Edwidge Danticat | Breath, Eyes, Memory

Discussion Question: What questions does Danticat pose for the female immigrant experience?