

**EN625 Seminar: Toni Morrison**  
Professor Rhonda Frederick

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Morrison, Toni      *The Bluest Eye*  
                          *Sula*  
                          *Song of Solomon*  
                          *Beloved*  
                          *Jazz*  
                          *Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and the Literary Imagination*  
                          *Paradise* (recommended)

**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS**

Morrison, Toni      “Recitatif”  
                          1993 Nobel Prize Lecture

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Through Toni Morrison’s oeuvre, we will take a journey through US culture and history by exploring a variety of North American preoccupations specifically as they are refracted through an African American literary purview. In other words, we will explore thematic and artistic concerns that arise in Morrison’s fiction and non-fiction and thus gain insight into the history and culture of the United States. The following themes shape this course: dominant cultural mores and their impact (*The Bluest Eye*), legacies of slavery (*Beloved*), ancestry and oral culture as sustaining forces (*Song of Solomon*), women’s responses to patriarchy and constructions of gender (*Sula*, *Paradise*), and the creation and uses of culture (*Jazz*).