

ENGL 324: The Blues Tradition in American Literature (Fall 2012)
Dr. Adam Gussow

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- Tue 8/28: Barry Lee Pearson, *Jook Right On* (“Introduction, “Blues Talk”)
- Thu 8/30: Pearson, *Jook Right On* (“Turn-Arounds”)
- Tue 9/11: Steven A. King, “Blues Myths and the Rhetorical Imagination of Place” and “A Blues Countermemory: The History of Mississippi, The Story of the Delta”
poems: Sterling Plumpp (“Mississippi Griot,” “B. B. King,” “Muddy Waters,” “Robert Johnson”)
- Tue 9/18: Steven C. Tracy, “Creating the Blues”
poems: Langston Hughes (“The Weary Blues,” “Bad Luck Card,” “Gypsy Man,” “Ma Man,” “Bad Man,” “Suicide,” “Morning After,” “Mississippi Levee,” “In a Troubled Key,” “Same in Blues,” “Po’ Boy Blues”)
- Thu 9/20: poems: Hughes (cont’d), Sterling Brown (“Ma Rainey”), Robert Hayden, (“Homage to the Empress of the Blues”)
- Tue 9/25: Angela Davis, “I Used to Be Your Sweet Mama: Ideology, Sexuality, and Domesticity”
poems: Wanda Coleman (“Bottom Out Blues,” “Variations on a Blues Motif,” “Identifying Marks”), Sherley Anne Williams (“39. Bessie on my wall,” “fifteen,” “port arthur,” “Rome Georgia,” “from a picture taken at the start of her career,” “The Empress Brand Trim,” “the mule and the world,” “I Want Aretha to Set This to Music,” “recollections”), Eugene Redmond (“Double Clutch Lover”), Al Young (“A Dance for Ma Rainey”)
- Thu 9/27: Larry Neal, “Any Day Now: Black Art and Black Liberation”
poems: Sonia Sanchez (“liberation / poem”), Etheridge Knight (“A Poem for Myself,” “Con/tin/u/way/shun Blues”), Quincy Troupe (“Impression / of Chicago; For Howlin’ Wolf”), Jayne Cortez (“You Know”)
- Thu 10/4: August Wilson, “Preface to Three Plays”
- Tue 10/16: Adam Gussow, “Guns, Knives, and Buckets of Blood”
- Thu 11/1: Michael Bloomfield, *Me and Big Joe*

- Tue 11/13: Ben Caldwell, "Birth of a Blues"
Roland L. Freeman, "Don't Forget the Blues"
BeBe Moore Campbell, *Your Blues Ain't Like Mine*
- Thu 11/15: Frank Matheis, "Guy Davis Has It All—Or Does He?"
Adam Gussow, "Whose Blues? Eight Infuriating (and Hope-Inducing)
Half-Truths About the Modern Blues Scene"
Vincent Leitch, "Blues Southwestern Style"