CAAS 100.006 - Fall Term 1988

"Telling Lives: Autobiographical Accounts of the African American Experience"

The Honors Seminar uses several key autobiographical works as vehicles for conveying in profoundly direct human and personal terms the nature of the African-American experience in widely different times and places. Two faculty members will teach this course jointly. Examples of autobiographical subjects include Zora Neale Hurston, Maya Angelou, W.E.B. DuBois and Malcolm X. Such works will provide immediate insight about similarities and differences of experience and provide useful comparative framework for conveying historical and cultural understanding. The use of autobiography also permits the early introduction of various kinds of information and analysis from literary, artistic, social, historical, political economic, psychological, cultural, and legal source materials. Students will be encouraged to develop an appreciation of the methods and content of the traditional disciplines and some sense of their strengths and limitations. The Freshman Honors Seminar on Great Books is a partial model for our seminar.