The Harlem Renaissance, which spanned from approximately 1917 to the mid-1930s, was a cultural explosion that changed the course of African American literature, music, art, and intellectual thought. It brought together a wide range of artists and intellectuals who sought to bear witness to the complexity of the African American experience during a time in which many avenues to publishing and performing were owned and controlled by whites. In this seminar, we will focus on the problems of representation and audience as we study the work and ideas of key figures such as W. E. B. Du Bois, James Weldon Johnson, Claude McKay, Countee Cullen, Georgia Douglas Johnson, Jessie Redmon Faucet, Langston Hughes, Carl Van Vechten, Zora Neale Hurston, Jean Toomer, and Marcus Garvey. We will also study the work of other Harlem Renaissance scholars and creative writers as well as painters, sculptors, musicians, and performing artists from this landmark era to understand the culture in which they worked and to appreciate their influence on subsequent cultural movements in the United States and elsewhere.