

**M. Genevieve West**  
(short vita)

Department of English, Speech, and Foreign Languages  
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**Education**

Ph.D. in English, Florida State University, 1997. Major Area: American literature post-1865;  
Minor Area: African American literature. Dissertation: *Zora Neale Hurston and  
American Literary Culture*.

M. A. in English, Mississippi State University, 1993.

B. A. in English, Mississippi State University, 1991.

**Professional Experience**

2009-Present Professor and Chair, Department of English, Speech and Foreign Languages,  
Texas Woman's University, Denton, Texas.

2007-2009 Interim Head, Department of Languages and Literature, Ferris State University.

2004-2007 Associate Professor of English, Department of Languages and Literature, Ferris  
State University.

2001-2004 Assistant Professor of English, Department of Languages and Literature, Ferris  
State University.

1997-2001 Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Southern Mississippi.

1995-1997 First-year Writing Program Assistant, Department of English, Florida State  
University.

1993-1997 Teaching Assistant and Writing Center tutor, Department of English, Florida State  
University.

1991-1993 Teaching Assistant, Department of English, Mississippi State University.

**Courses Taught**

TWU ENG 4393/WS 4393 American Women in Literature (cross-listed with Women's Studies)

Ferris WGST 105 Intro to Women's Studies  
ENGL 150 First-year writing  
ENGL 250 Argument and Research  
ENGL 321 Advanced Composition  
ENGP 321 Advanced Composition for Pharmacy (discipline specific)  
LITR 242 Popular Literature  
LITR 202 African American Literature  
LITR 204 Native American Literature  
LITR 286 Justice in Literature  
LITR 370 Topics in Women's Literature (African American Women's Fiction)  
LITR 380 World Folk Literature  
LITR 401 Topics: American Modernist Prose  
LITR 402 Major Figures: Hurston, Brooks, Morrison, Walker

USM ENG 101 and 102 (Composition)  
ENG Honors 101 and 102 (Composition)  
ENG 201 Introduction to Fiction  
ENG 203 World Literature  
ENG 371 American Literature 1865-present  
ENG 372 Survey of African American Literature  
ENG 473/573 The Harlem Renaissance  
ENG 473/573 African American Women's Literary Tradition  
ENG 473/573 The African American Novel  
ENG 478 Multiethnic American Women Writers  
ENG 573 Toni Morrison  
ENG 673 The Rhetoric of Race in African American Literature  
ENG 773 Black Feminist Discourse Seminar  
ENG 773 Zora Neale Hurston Seminar

### **Book Publication**

*Zora Neale Hurston and American Literary Culture*, University Press of Florida, 2005.

### **Articles, Interviews and Book Chapters**

"Using *Their Eyes Were Watching God* to Teach the Process of Canon Formation," *Approaches to Teaching Hurston's Their Eyes Were Watching God and Other Works*. Ed. John Lowe. New York: MLA, 2009. 21-26.

"'Creating a Change in Continuity': A Conversation with Makuchi, Author of *The Sacred Door and Other Stories Cameroon Folktales of the Beba*." *Obsidian* 8.2 (Fall/Winter 2007 [issued Spring 2009]): 53-66

"Zora Neale Hurston," *Harlem Speaks*. Ed. Cary Wintz. Sourcebooks, 2006.

“‘It Takes Time’: The Generative Potential of Transgressive Teaching,” *Radical Teacher* 58 (Fall 2000): 21-25. Rpt. in *Hostile Corridors: Advocates and Obstacles to Education in Multicultural America*. Ed. Michael A. McMorris. Thompson, 2003. 246-57.

“Feminist Subversion in Hurston’s *Jonah’s Gourd Vine*,” *Women’s Studies* 31.4 (July-August 2002): 499-515.

“Looking for Zora: An Addendum,” *Analytical and Enumerative Bibliography* 11.4: 121-23.

“Looking For Zora: A Calendar of Correspondence,” *Analytical and Enumerative Bibliography* 11.2: 124-178.

“‘It Takes Time’: The Generative Potential of Transgressive Teaching,” *Radical Teacher* 58 (Fall 2000): 21-25.

“Trading Places: Becoming the ‘Other’ in the Classroom.” ERIC, 1999.

“Michael Dorris,” *Encyclopedia of American Literature*, New York: Continuum, 1999. 287-88.

### **Book Reviews**

*The Sacred Door and Other Stories: Cameroon Folktales of the Beba*, Makuchi, *Obsidian* 8.2 (Fall/Winter 2007 [issued Spring 2009]): 164-67.

*A Zora Neale Hurston Companion*, by Robert R. Croft, *Southern Quarterly* 43.1 (Fall 2005): 149-50.

*Zora Neale Hurston: A Life in Letters*, Ed. Carla Kaplan, *Southern Quarterly* 42.1 (Fall 2003): 136-37.

*The Aesthetics of Toni Morrison: Speaking the Unspeakable*, Ed. Marc C. Conner, *Studies in the Novel* (Summer 2003): 272-75.

*Hitting a Straight Lick with a Crooked Stick*, by Susan Meisenhelder, *Southern Quarterly* 40.2 (Winter 2002): 172-74

*Trumpeting a Fiery Sound*, by Jacqueline Miller Carmichael, *Southern Quarterly* 33.1 (Fall 1999): 220-21.

*Zora Neale Hurston: An Annotated Bibliography*, by Rose Parkman Davis, *Southern Quarterly* 36.4 (Summer 1998): 155-6.

### **Work in Progress**

“‘Youse in New Yawk’: The Sexual Politics of Zora Neale Hurston’s Migration Fiction”

“Truth, Lies, and Genre: The Reception of James Frey’s *A Million Little Pieces*,”

*Zora Neale Hurston: The Critical Heritage*

### **Scholarly Presentations**

“Leaving the ‘Basement’: Urban Migration and Sexual Politics in Hurston’s Short Fiction,”  
Midwest Modern Language Association, Minneapolis, Minnesota, November 2008.

“Aim[ing] for the Truth”: Oprah and the Reception of James Frey’s *A Million Little Pieces*,  
Midwest Modern Language Association, Minneapolis, Minnesota, November 2008.

“Truth, Lies, and Genre: The Reception of James Frey’s *A Million Little Pieces*,” Society for  
the Study of Reception Conference, Kansas City, Missouri, September 2007.

“The Folklore of Urban Migration in the Short Fiction of Zora Neale Hurston,” Midwest Modern  
Language Association, Chicago, Illinois, November 2006.

“‘Between Laughter and Tears’: Richard Wright and the Initial Reception of Hurston’s *Their  
Eyes Were Watching God*,” American Reception Study Conference, University of  
Delaware, September 2005.

“Women’s Paths to Leadership in the Humanities,” Oxford Round Table on Women and  
Leadership, Oxford, England, August 8, 2004.

“Charles W. Chesnutt’s New Negro,” Society for the Study of Southern Literature, Chapel Hill,  
North Carolina, April 2004.

“Zora Neale Hurston’s Aunt Caroline Tales: Blending Folklore and Fiction,” Modern Language  
Association Convention, San Diego, California, December 2003.

“Chameleons: Gender Scripts in Hurston’s Urban Short Fiction,” Women’s Studies Conference,  
Marquette University, March 2003.

“‘Rock Hard’: Hurston’s Urban Feminism,” Society for the Study of American Women Writers,  
San Antonio, Texas, February 16, 2001.

“*Jonah’s Gourd Vine*: Hurston’s First Feminist Novel,” American Women Writers of Color  
Conference, Ocean City, Maryland, October 30, 1999.

“Teaching African American Literary and Cultural History with Periodicals,” South Atlantic  
Modern Language Association Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, November 5, 1999.

“Packaging Zora Neale Hurston as a Black Writer,” The Society for Textual Studies  
International Interdisciplinary Conference,” New York, New York, April 17, 1999.

“Trading Places: Becoming the ‘Other’ in the Classroom,” The Conference on College Composition and Communication, Chicago, Illinois, April 3, 1998.

“Changing Perceptions of Zora Neale Hurston as an Artist: The Pivotal Role of *Their Eyes Were Watching God*,” National Association of African and African American Studies National Conference, Houston, Texas, February 12, 1998.

“Hitting a Straight Lick with a Crooked Stick’: A Lesson in Canon Formation from *Their Eyes Were Watching God*,” South Atlantic Modern Language Association Convention, Savannah, Georgia, November 8, 1996.

“Character Transformation, Autonomy, and Feminism in Bharati Mukherjee’s Novel *Jasmine*,” Florida State University Annual Conference on Literature and Film, Tallahassee, Florida, January 26, 1995.

### **Invited Presentations**

Featured Speaker, “The Big Read,” West Shore Community College, Ludington, Michigan (NEA grant-funded community reading program). Two-day series of presentations to high school, community, and community college groups about Zora Neale Hurston and *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. Presented a scholarly keynote address on campus, “‘Time and Place Have Had Their Say’: Zora Neale Hurston and American Literary Culture” October 3-4, 2007.

Featured speaker, “The Big Read,” Alachua County, Gainesville, Florida (NEA grant-funded community reading program). Three-day series of presentations to high school, community, and university groups about Zora Neale Hurston and *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. Presented the scholarly keynote address (co-sponsored by the University of Florida Student Government), “‘Time and Place Have Had Their Say’: Zora Neale Hurston and American Literary Culture” The Harn Museum, September 20, 2007.

“Stereotypes as Impediments to Women’s Leadership,” V-Day Lecture, Ferris State University, February 18, 2005.

“Paths to Leadership and the Challenge of Stereotypes,” Ferris Professional Women, Ferris State University, October 4, 2004.

“Gender and Leadership,” Select Sixty, Ferris State University, November 18, 2004.

“Imaging an Icon: Marketing Zora Neale Hurston,” Association of University and Professional Women, Big Rapids, Michigan, January 8, 2002.

“The Historic Commodification of Zora Neale Hurston,” Brown Bag Luncheon Series, Women’s Studies Program, University of Southern Mississippi, February 1999.