

Self-Revelation in Women's Writing

TTh 3:30–5 pm, MEZ B0.302

Michael Craig Hillmann, Instructor

- African and African American Studies 374 (30415)
- Comparative Literature 323 (33775)
- Women and Gender Studies 340 (47075)
- Middle Eastern Studies 322K (41710) and Persian Studies 361 (41930)

This course deals with the African American prose writer **Zora Neale Hurston** (d. 1960) and the secular-minded Iranian poetess **Forugh Farrokhzad** (d. 1967), who used their writing as vehicles for self-revelation and self-realization despite substantial societal and cultural obstacles. This course involves close readings and group discussion of their chief writings in the contexts of autobiography, American and Iranian cultures, and women's participation in American and Persian/Iranian literatures. The required course texts are Hurston's four novels and her autobiography, English translations of 40 of Farrokhzad's poems, and Joanna Russ's *How to Suppress Women's Writing*. Course grades are based on class participation, two oral presentations (one a report on an assigned story or poem and the second a report on an assigned article), a review test on the third to the last day of class, and a term paper. The course has no final examination.