**Schedule**

The structure of the Institute reflects our extensive experience with creating programs through which teachers can experience renewed professional commitment. We have purposefully filled our schedule with a wealth of scholar-led seminars, informal discussions, films, tours, workshops, collaborative activities and structured reading, writing and research time in order to make your time with us as rich and varied as possible. Because of this, we ask that NEH Summer Scholars complete the core reading prior to arriving in Kansas. NEH Summer Scholars will be encouraged to reread and revisit the texts as time allows and also to incorporate supplemental readings as appropriate.

Daily seminar sessions, by the four resident scholars and eleven visiting scholars, along with participant-led presentations will take place over the three-week period. The seminars will encourage close reading and will be organized around a key theme or approach to reading and/or teaching African American poetry. Each seminar will begin with a formal presentation by the scholar and will invite questions and explorations, practical and academic, and offer research and writing possibilities.

**Week I: Traditions of Black Poetry in America: 1900-1960**

Resident Faculty: Jerry W. Ward, Jr. (retired Professor of English, Dillard University, a Famous Overseas Professor, Central China Normal University (Wuhan) and Adjunct Research Associate, University of Kansas) and Joanne V. Gabbin (Professor of English and Director of the Furious Flower Poetry Center at James Madison University)

Visiting Faculty: Aldon Nielsen (Kelley Professor of American Literature at

Pennsylvania State University), R. Baxter Miller (Professor of English and African American Studies at the University of Georgia) and J. Edgar Tidwell (Professor of English at the University of Kansas)

**Sunday, July 14 – Welcome**

12:00-4:00 Check-In

4:30-6:00 Welcome and Orientation, Maryemma Graham

6:00-7:00 Opening dinner hosted by KU

**Monday, July 15 – Overview and Critical Background**

Morning Session

9:00-10:15 Lecture: “On the Study of African American Poetry I (1900-1930)” with Jerry W. Ward, Jr.

10:15-11:30 Lecture: “On the Study of African American Poetry II (1930-1960)” with Joanne V. Gabbin

Afternoon Session

1:00-3:00 Discussion led by Jerry W. Ward, Jr. and Joanne Gabbin

3:30-5:00 Technology workshop: “The Virtual Reading Room and More” with Ermal Garinger Academic Resource Center

Evening Session

7:00-9:00 Public Panel and Reception: “Poetry Collections/Archives and the Role of the Community, Educators, Research and Recovery Efforts” with Kathleen Bethel (Northwestern University Library), Melissa Watterworth Batt (University of Connecticut Library), E. Ethelbert Miller (Howard University Library), Doretha Williams (Mid America Black Archives), Beth Whittaker (KU Spencer Research Library) and Joanne Gabbin (Furious Flower Poetry Center, James Madison University)

**Tuesday, July 16 – History I**

Morning Session

9:00-9:30 Discussion of *Drumvoices* led by Jerry W. Ward, Jr. and Joanne Gabbin

9:30-11:30 Visiting Faculty Lecture: Innovation and Racial Discourse” with Aldon Nielsen

Afternoon Session

1:00-3:30 Discussion of the day’s readings led by Jerry W. Ward, Jr. and Joanne Gabbin

3:30-5:00 Virtual Reading Room, research, individual meetings with faculty, or reading

**Wednesday, July 17 – History II**

Morning Session

9:00-10:30 Visiting Faculty Lecture: “Blues Poets in the Renaissance and Beyond” with J. Edgar Tidwell

10:30-11:30 Discussion led by Jerry W. Ward, Jr. and Joanne Gabbin

Afternoon Session

1:00-2:30 Lecture: “Sterling Brown and Aesthetic Traditions” with Joanne Gabbin

2:30-3:30 Discussion of day’s required readings led by Jerry W. Ward, Jr. and Joanne Gabbin

3:30-5:00 Collaborative activities

**Thursday, July 18 – Cultural Change/Historical Recovery in African American Poetry**

Morning Session

9:00-10:30 Visiting Faculty Lecture: “African American Poetry after World War II” with R. Baxter Miller

10:30-11:30 Discussion of morning’s lecture

Afternoon Session

1:00-4:00 Workshop on use of digital humanities to contextualize the nature of change in poetry

4:00-5:00 Virtual Reading Room, research, individual meetings with faculty, or reading

Evening Session

7:00-9:00 Furious Flower Video Volume I: Elders (114 minutes) and Discussion

Featuring Samuel W. Allen, Mari Evans, Naomi Long Madgett, Alvin Aubert and Pinkie Gordon Lane

**Friday, July 19 – History as Process of Legacy and Tradition**

Morning Session  
9:00-10:30 Lecture: “History as Process of Legacy and Tradition” with Joanne Gabbin

10:30-11:00 Discussion of lecture and required readings from works by Sherley Anne Williams,Houston A. Baker, Jr., and George Kent.

Afternoon Session

1:00-2:30 Lecture: “Culture, Contact/combat Zones of Poetry, and Acknowledgement” with Jerry W. Ward, Jr.

2:30-3:30 Discussion of lecture and required readings from works by Mary Louise Pratt, Nathaniel Mackey and Lorenzo Thomas, and from Opal J. Moore’s chapter in *The Cambridge History of African American Literature*.

3:30-5:00 Collaborative activities

**Week II: The Aesthetics and Production of Black Poetry: 1960-1980**

Resident Faculty: Howard Rambsy (Associate Professor of English and Director of the Black Studies program at Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville)

Visiting Faculty: William Joe Harris (professor American Literature and Director of the

Creative Writing Program at the University of Kansas), Opal Moore (Professor of English and Creative Writing at Spelman College) and Anthony Grooms (Professor of Creative Writing and Interdisciplinary Studies at Kennesaw State University)

**Monday, July 22 – Literary Production**

Morning Session

9:00-10:30 Lecture: “African American Poetry 1960s/70s” with Howard Rambsy

10:30-11:30 Group project updates

Afternoon Session

1:00-2:30 Lecture: “Production Matters and Anthologies” with Howard Rambsy

2:30-4:00 Discussion of assigned readings

4:00-5:00 Virtual Reading Room, research, individual meetings with faculty, or reading

**Tuesday, July 23 – Jazz Poetry and Collected Works**

Morning Session

9:00-10:30 Visiting Faculty Lecture: “Jazz Poetry” with William J. Harris

10:30-11:30 Discussion of day’s assigned readings

Afternoon Session

1:00-3:30 Discussion of “Black Poets and Their Collected Works” with William J. Harris

3:30-5:00 Collaborative activities

Evening Session

7:30-9:00 Furious Flower Video Volume II: Warriors (114 minutes) and Discussion

Featuring Amiri Baraka, Haki R. Madhubuti, Kalamu ya Salaam, Sonia Sanchez, Eugene Redmond, Nikki Giovanni

**Wednesday, July 24 – Recovery Work and Audio Recordings**

Morning Session

9:00-10:30 Visiting Faculty Lecture: “Black Expatriate Poets: Allen Polite and James Emanuel” with

Anthony Grooms

10:30-11:30 Discussion of day’s assigned readings

Afternoon Session

1:00-2:30 Workshop: Listening Session led by Howard Rambsy

2:30-4:00 Discussion

4:00-5:00 Virtual Reading Room, research, individual meetings with faculty, or reading

**Thursday, July 25 – Digital Humanities and Poetry**

Morning Session

9:00-10:30 Lecture: “Literary Foremothers” with Maryemma Graham

10:30-11:30 Discussion of day’s assigned readings

Afternoon Session

1:00-2:30 Lecture: “Studying African American Poetry Online” with Howard Rambsy

2:30-3:30 Discussion

3:30-5:00 Research, individual meetings with faculty, or reading

Evening Session

7:30-9:00 Furious Flower Video Volume III: Seers (114 minutes) and Discussion

Featuring Rita Dove, Toi Derricotte, Dolores Kendrick, Sherley Anne Williams, Gerald Barrax, E. Ethelbert Miller, Michael S. Harper

**Friday, July 26 – Emergent Poetic Voices**

Morning Session

9:00-10:30 Visiting Faculty Lecture: “Emergent Poetic Voices” with Opal Moore

10:30-11:30 Discussion

Afternoon Session

1:00-3:00 Wrap-up/Review with Howard Rambsy

3:00-5:00 Collaborative activities

**Saturday, July 27 – Fieldtrip to Kansas City**

9:00-5:00 Visit American Jazz Museum, Midwest Black Archives and public poetry slam event featuring Tracie Morris, institute faculty and local Kansas City and other poets.

**Week III: Contemporary Black Poetics: 1980-present**

Resident Faculty: Tony Bolden (Associate Professor of African/African American Studies at the University of Kansas)

Visiting Faculty: Adam Bradley (Associate Professor of English at the University of Colorado – Boulder), Meta DuEwa Jones (Associate Professor of English at the University of Texas – Austin and Co-Director for the Texas Institute for Literary and Textual Studies) and Tracie Morris (Professor of Humanities & Media Studies and Coordinator of Performance & Performance Studies at Pratt Institute)

**Monday, July 29 – Critical Overview and Introduction to Contemporary Black Poetry**

Morning Session

9:00-10:30 Lecture: “Recentering Black Poets: A Paradigmatic Shift in Black Literary History” with Tony Bolden

10:30-11:30 Discussion

Afternoon Session

1:00-2:30 Visiting Faculty Lecture: “The Performance of Contemporary Black Poetry” with

Tracie Morris

2:30-3:30 Workshop and Discussion with Traci Morris

3:30-5:00 Virtual Reading Room, research, individual meetings with faculty, or reading

**Tuesday, July 30 – The Calligraphy of Black Chant**

Morning Session

9:00-10:30 Visiting Faculty lecture with Meta DuEwa Jones “The Practice of Contemporary Black Poetry: Shange, Mullen, Mackey, Alexander”

10:30-11:30 Discussion

Afternoon Session

1:00-2:30 Visiting Faculty Lecture: “Jazz Poetry and the Spoken Word” with Meta DuEwa Jones

3:00-5:00 Public Panel: “Poetry and Its Publics” with Joseph Harrington, Jill Kuhnheim, Tony Bolden and Adam Bradley

Evening Session

7:30-9:00 Furious Flower Video Volume IV: Initiates (27 minutes) and Discussion

Featuring Elizabeth Alexander, The Dark Room Collective, Thomas Sayers Ellis, Kevin Young, Sharan Strange, Major Jackson, Vera Beatty, John Keene

**Wednesday, July 31 – Black Avant-garde Poetics in Sound and Visual Script**

Morning Session

9:00-10:30 Lecture: “New Blues in Black Poetry: Experiments in Contemporary Form” with Tony Bolden

10:30-11:30 Discussion

Afternoon Session

1:00-2:30 Visiting Faculty Lecture “The Poetics of Contemporary Black Poetry” with Adam Bradley

2:30-3:30 Discussion

3:30-5:00 Workshop with Adam Bradley

**Thursday, August 1 – Where Do We Go From Here?: The Last Stanza**

Morning Session

9:00-10:30 Lecture: “Evie Shockley’s ‘Renegade Poetics’: Or, Would Black Aesthetics by An(y) Other Name Be More Innovative?” with Tony Bolden

10:30-11:30 Discussion

Afternoon Session

1:00-5:00 Group presentations of Institute projects

**Friday, August 2 – Group Presentations and Closing**

Morning Session

9:00-11:30 Group presentations of Institute projects

Afternoon Session

1:00-4:00 Group presentations of Institute projects

6:00-8:30 Closing dinner

**Saturday, August 3 – Departure**