



**Making the Wright Connection:**  
**Reading *Native Son*, *Black Boy* and *Uncle Tom's Children***  
University of Kansas  
July 11-24, 2010

Sunday, July 11

- 1:00 – 5:00    **Arrival and Housing Assignments**  
Location: Lewis Hall Lobby
- 5:00            **Dinner** with Institute Staff  
Orientation, Procedures, Evaluation Meeting  
Location: Nunemaker Center
- 7:00            **Public Reception** - Open to the community, hosted by Spencer Research Library  
Special Guest: Hazel Rowley, Wright biographer  
Location: North Gallery, Spencer Research Library
- 

Monday, July 12

- 8:15            Meet at Card Center in KU Memorial Union
- 9:00 – Noon    **Seminar** (1) The Life and Times of Richard Wright  
Readings: Prologue and Chapter 23 “Journey to the Gold Coast” in Richard Wright: The Life and Times  
*Hazel Rowley*  
Location: Johnson Room
- 
- 12:30 – 2:15    **Lunch Discussion** Making Connections through Biography  
*Hazel Rowley, Jerry W. Ward, Jr. and Maryemma Graham*  
Location: 4071 Wescoe
- 2:30 – 5:00    **Technology Workshop**  
Introduction to online collaborative work area and teleconference software  
*Jonathan Perkins and Keah Cunningham*  
Location: Ermal Garinger Academic Resource Center (4070 Wescoe)
- 7:30 – 9:30    **Public Event - Film:** Richard Wright - Black Boy (1995) (86 minutes)  
Introduction to film and discussion  
*Madison Davis Lacy*, Director  
Location: Lawrence Arts Center, Downtown Lawrence

Tuesday, July 13

- 8:30            Arrive at Spencer Research Library
- 9:00 – Noon    **Seminar** (2) “Between the World and Me”: The Wright Paradigm
- 7/8/2010



Readings: “Between the World and Me” and “I Have Seen Black Hands”(poems);  
 “The Ethics of Living Jim Crow” (UTC); Jerry Ward, “The Wright Critical  
 Paradigm: Facing a Future,” *Callalo* 9.3 (1986): 521-528

*Jerry W. Ward, Jr.*

Location: Johnson Room

12:30 – 2:15

**Lunch Discussion** , Making Connections through Poetry

Readings: Julia Wright, “Introduction,” Haiku: This Other World

*Howard Rambsy, Jerry W. Ward Jr.*

Location: 4071 Wescoe

2:30 – 5:00

**Seminar** (3) Reading Wright through Folklore: An Introduction

Readings: "Literary History and Literary Folklore" and accompanying notes from  
Fiction and Folklore: The Novels of Toni Morrison.

*Trudier Harris*

Location: Johnson Room



7:00 – 9:30

**Tour & Presentation** Reading Wright through Images and Text

*Saralyn Reece Hardy*, Director, Spencer Museum of Art

Location: Spencer Museum of Art

Wednesday, July 14

8:30

Arrive at Spencer Research Library

9:00 – Noon

**Seminar** (4) Boys to Men in Three Wright Short Stories

Readings: “Big Boy Leaves Home” (UTC), “Long Black Song” (UTC) and “Big  
 Black Good Man” (Eight Men)

*Howard Rambsy*

Location: Johnson Room



12:30 – 2:15

**Lunch Discussion** Wright: “Fighting with Words” in the Contemporary  
 Classroom

*Tonya Wells-Abari and Marjorie Lancaster*

Location: 4071 Wescoe

2:30 – 5:00

**Seminar** (5) Making Connections through Wright’s Short Story Cycle

Readings: Uncle Tom’s Children

*Carmaletta Williams*

Location: Johnson Room



7:00

**Film** Long Black Song (1996) (87 minutes)

Introduction to film and discussion

*Madison Davis Lacy*

Location: Location: 455 Watson Library

Thursday, July 15

8:30 Arrive at Spencer Research Library

9:00 – 10:30 **Lecture** Background to Native Son: overview of three-part structure



Reading: “How ‘Bigger’ Was Born”

*Jerry W. Ward, Jr.*

Location: Johnson Room

10:45 – 12:30 **Demonstration** Making Connections to Native Son for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Students



*Tonya Wells-Abari*

Location: Johnson Room

1:00 – 2:15 **Lunch Discussion** Reading Wright, Reading our Students

*Marjorie Lancaster and Tonya Wells-Abari*

Location: 4071 Wescoe

2:30 – 5:00 **Seminar** (6) Without the Consolation of Tears: Understanding Emotion in



*Native Son*

Reading: Native Son “Fear” (part 1); Wright’s “Blueprint for Negro Writing” and “The Literature of the Negro in the United States”; and Jefferson, *Notes on the State of Virginia* Query 14

*Deborah McDowell*

Location: Johnson Room

7:00 – 8:00 **NEH Discussion**

*Julia Nguyen, NEH*

Location: 455 Watson Library

8:00 – 9:30 Reading / Research / Writing

Location: 455 Watson Library

Friday, July 16

8:30 Arrive at Spencer Research Library

9:00 – Noon **Seminar** (7) Without the Consolation of Tears: Part II



Reading: Native Son “Flight” (part 2)

*Deborah McDowell*

Location: Johnson Room

12:30 – 2:15 **Lunch Discussion** Wright and Migration: The Mississippi to Chicago Connection

*Tony Harris and Howard Rambsy*

Location: 4071 Wescoe

2:30 – 5:00 **Seminar** (8) Without the Consolation of Tears: Part III



Reading: Native Son “Fate” (part 3)

7/8/2010

*Deborah McDowell*  
Location: Johnson Room

7:00pm **Public Event Film** Soul of a People: Writing America's Story (2009)  
(93 minutes)  
Introduction to film and discussion  
*David Taylor*, Writer and Co-producer  
Special Guest, *Norman Yetman*  
Location: Hall Center for the Humanities  
Reception to follow, hosted by the Hall Center for the Humanities

Saturday, July 17

8:30 **Field Trip** American Jazz Museum  
Buses leave for Kansas City, 18<sup>th</sup> & Vine (stop at McDonald's for breakfast)

10:00 – Noon **Lecture** Richard Wright, Jazz and Blues  
 Readings: “Red Clay Blues” and “FB Eye Blues” (poems)  
*Tony Bolden*

12:00 – 1:30 **Lunch** at Arthur Bryant's BBQ


1:30 – 5:00 **Comments and Tour** American Jazz Museum  
*Greg Carroll*, Director, American Jazz Museum

5:00 Buses leave for Lawrence

Evening FREE

Sunday, July 18

All day Reading / Research / Writing

3pm **Public Lecture** “A Hurricane Called Bigger”  
 *Julia Wright*, Journalist and daughter of Richard Wright  
Introduction by *Lorraine Haricombe*, KU Dean of Libraries  
Location: Spencer Art Museum, Auditorium  
Reception to follow, hosted by Office of the Chancellor

Evening FREE

Monday, July 19

8:30 Arrive at Spencer Research Library


9:00 – 9:30 Six Versions of Native Son: Novel, the Plays, and the Films

7/8/2010

*Jerry W. Ward, Jr.*  
Location: Johnson Room

9:30-12:30 **Film** Native Son (1950 or 1951)  
Introduction and Discussion  
*Jerry W. Ward, Jr. and Julia Wright*  
Location: Johnson Room


1:00 – 2:15 **Lunch Discussion** Richard Wright and Religion: Personal Reflections  
*Randall Jelks*  
Location: 4071 Wescoe

2:30 – 5:00 **Demonstration** Richard Wright in the Digital Classroom  
  
*Howard Rambsy and Tony Harris*  
Location: Johnson Room

7:00pm **Film** Almos a Man (1976)  
Reading: “Almos a Man” (Eight Men)  
Introduction to film and discussion of film and reading  
*Howard Rambsy and Randall Jelks*  
Location: 455 Watson Library (39 minutes)


Tuesday, July 20

8:30 Arrive at Spencer Research Library

9:00 – Noon **Seminar** (9) Reading Wright’s Women  
  
Women to Discuss: Sarah in “Long Black Song,” May in “Fire and Cloud,” and  
Sue in “Bright and Morning Star.” UTC  
*Carmaletta Williams*  
Location: Johnson Room

12:00-1:00 Free lunch hour at Kansas Union

1:00 – 3:15 **Workshop** Reading/Teaching Wright through Material Culture  
  
*Marla Jackson, Textile Artist*  
Location: Central Court, Spencer Museum of Art

3:30 – 5:00 **Discussion** Teaching Wright and Curriculum Standards  
  
*Frazier O’Leary*  
Location: Johnson Room

7:00 Working Session with Resident Scholars and Discussion Leaders  
Location: 455 Watson Library

Wednesday, July 21

8:30 Arrive at Spencer Research Library

9:00 – Noon **Seminar** (10) Art as Life: Narrating Lived Experience



Reading: Black Boy “Southern Nights” (part 1); Robert Butler, “Seeking Salvation in a Naturalistic Universe: Richard Wright’s Use of His Southern Religious Background in *Black Boy*”; Janice Thaddeus, “The Metamorphosis of Richard Wright’s *Black Boy*”

*James A. Miller*

Location: Johnson Room

12:30 – 2:15 **Lunch Discussion** Public/Private Schools and Richard Wright

*Frazier O’Leary and Emily Robbins*

Location: 4071 Wescoe

2:30 – 5:00 **Seminar** (11) The Politics of Art: Loss and Recovery



Reading: Black Boy “The Horror and the Glory” (part 2); Abdul R. Jan Mohamed, “Negating the Negation: The Construction of Richard Wright.”

*James A. Miller*

Location: Johnson Room

7:00 Working Session with Resident Scholars and Discussion Leaders

Location: 455 Watson Library

Thursday, July 22

8:30 Arrive at Spencer Research Library

9:00 – Noon **Presentation** Covering Black Boy: A Visual Literary History of Wright’s Autobiography



*Howard Rambsy*

Location: North Gallery, Spencer Research Library

12:30 – 2:15 **Lunch Discussion** Students Rewriting Wright: Storytelling/Lifewriting

*Frazier O’Leary*

Location: 4071 Wescoe

2:30 – 5:00 Reading / Research / Writing

7:00 Working Session with Resident Scholars and Discussion Leaders

Location: 455 Watson Library

Friday, July 23

8:30 Arrive at Spencer Research Library

9:00 – Noon  **Final Session I: Sourcebook Demonstrations**

Location: Johnson Room

12:30 – 2:00 Lunch and Evaluation Session  
Location: 4071 Wescoe

2:00 – 5:00  **Final Session II: Sourcebook Demonstrations**  
Location: Johnson Room

6:30-8:30 Closing Ceremony and Certificates  
Location: Adams Alumni Center

Saturday, July 24 Depart for home