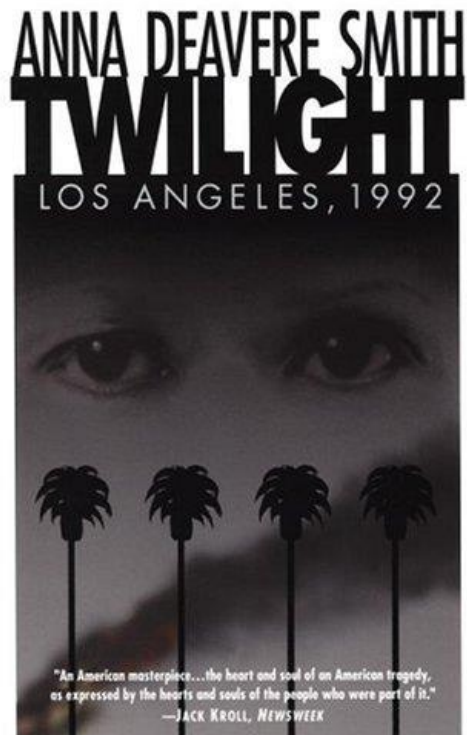


ENGL 3363 (Readings in Drama)  
**AFRICAN AMERICAN PERFORMANCE**

Instructor: Shaila Mehra  
Spring 2017, MWF 1:30-2:20 pm



This course focuses on experimental African American performance from the Black Arts Movement to the present. How do African American playwrights and performers imagine the relationship between identity and power? How do dramatic works challenge our traditional understandings of national belonging? In what ways can African American drama and performance complicate received notions of racial identity and racial difference, allowing us to see Blackness in new and unusual ways? Through our examination of plays, films, performance art, and videos, we will investigate how African American performance creates expansive, liberatory visions of Black identity and culture.

Course content may include *Dutchman* and *Slave Ship* (Jones/Baraka), *The Colored Museum* (Wolfe), *for colored girls...* (Shange), *Twilight: Los Angeles* (Deavere Smith), *Funnyhouse of a Negro* (Kennedy), *The America Play* (Parks); two films by Spike Lee (*Bamboozled* and *Girl 6*); performance art by William Pope.L and Hennessy Youngman; situation videos by Claudia Rankine and John Lucas; and performances by Beyoncé Knowles-Carter and Kendrick Lamar.