

When is it Over?  
“From Africa to the Atlantic  
My Black Woman Story  
Zora Neale Hurston

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December 20th 2022

Borough of Manhattan Community College [BMCC - CUNY]

AFN 128 - B110 Black Women in the Americas and the Caribbean  
(Same as ANT 128)  
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# Talking Points



## GENDER EQUALITY

- What is feminism
- What is African feminism

## INTRODUCTION

- ZORA NEALE HURSTON
- life journey
- Achievements
- Struggles in life.

## THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD

- How it relates to our course
- Conclusion
- Reference

# Gender Equality

One of the most main factors of economic and social development is gender. Despite the social class, there exist gender differences in leadership and property ownership, even though the extent of Gender inequalities varies across the world. Subsequently, gender inequality is a key feature of Several societies, with males better positioned in the society (United Nations). Throughout history, men have held more power over women where every decision that is made negatively affects women's rights. Throughout history, the goal of decreasing gender inequality has taken a key role in global organizations. Gender equality is one of the goals that need to be achieved across the world, and is important for sustainable development. Ending all forms of discrimination towards women is an important human right, and also important for prosperous future.



# Feminism

## What is feminism?

Feminism is the advocacy of women's rights on the basis of the equality of the sexes. Which means all genders having equal rights and opportunities. Feminism is for everyone because it speaks on the rights that men are equal to women. Historically, feminism has evolved from the critical examination of inequality between the sexes to a more nuanced focus on the social and performative constructions of gender and sexuality (Day, 2016). A feminist accepts the views and choices of each individual. All genders have equal rights and opportunities.



## African Feminism

To ensure that all women in Africa are treated with respect and given the same chances as men, African feminism advocates for a society in which these conditions are the norm. African feminists want to combat not only racism, sexism, and classism, but all forms of oppression that African women experience. Throughout history, black women were not seen as human beings. Along with this integration came the development of negative stereotypes and concepts that excluded black women. These stereotypes were used to silence African women.

## What is Black feminist theory?

Black feminist theory is a subset of feminist theory that emphasizes intersectionality as a crucial idea for comprehending the experiences of African American women and recognizing the interconnection of racism, sexism, and other forms of oppression. By recognizing the distinctive experiences and views of black women, black feminist theory aims to empower black women. It's an essential tool for figuring out how to defeat the twin evils of racism and sexism, which frequently work together to oppress Black women. Black feminist theory offers a framework for comprehending the complex interaction of gender and race in America today.

# Introduction



"American black women have a rich and diverse heritage." They have contributed greatly to American culture despite years of injustice and discrimination. Black women are a powerful force in the struggle for civil rights and social justice because they have historically been at the forefront of the battle for racial equality and economic freedom. In the feminist movement, black women have also paved a way for women of all backgrounds, advocating for equal rights and better opportunities.

Black women built a name for themselves by standing up for their rights and advancing gender equality. Zora Neale Hurston, an American author, anthropologist, and filmmaker, is only one of the countless individuals who have made a significant impact on our lives. This famous historical black woman wrote plays, short stories, and novels that frequently featured African American life in the South. Her anthropological research focused on black folklore.

# Childhood & Education

- Zora Neale Hurston was born in Alabama or Eatonville, Florida in 1891.
- She lived in an all African-American community for her childhood years.
- Preacher's daughter.
- She was the fifth of eight children in the Hurston household.
- Her life's motto was "Jump at the sun!" given to her by her mother.
- She was influenced to write about the culture and heritage of people that lived in her town.



- ZORA family moved into first incorporated all-black town in the country.
- Hurston, whose family life had become increasingly tough following the death of her mother, joined a traveling theater company at age 16 and eventually settled in New York City.
- She attended Howard University, Bernard college, and columbia university where she studied anthropology

# Zora Neale Hurston Accomplishment

Zora Neale Hurston was a prolific writer, publishing four novels, two books of folklore, an autobiography, and numerous short stories and essays. Zora Hurston's work often focused on the strength and resilience of African-American women. She was one of the first writers to examine the psychological and sociological facets of being a black woman in the United States, and her works made a significant contribution to the representation of black female characters. Hurston's writings touched on the value of family and the difficulties faced by black women in a racist society.

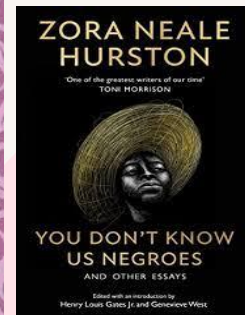
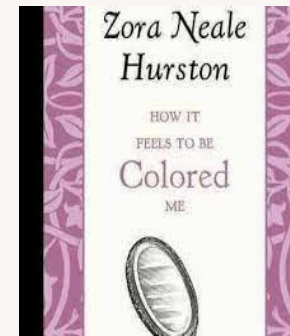
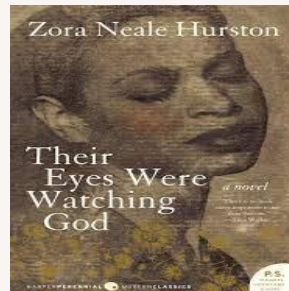
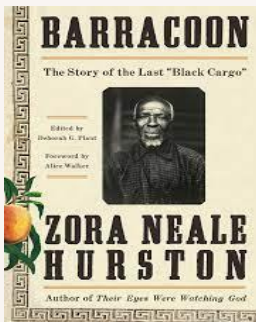


- Their Eyes Were Watching God is considered the last text of the Harlem Renaissance.
  - Her portrayal of an African-American female able to define herself outside of social conventions and stereotypes has provided a model for modern African Americans seeking their identities in unconventional roles.
- Zora was known as the queen of the Harlem Renaissance

# Struggles

Throughout her life, Hurston faced numerous personal and professional struggles. She is frequently criticized for her unconventional style of writing, and her books received mixed reviews from the audiences.

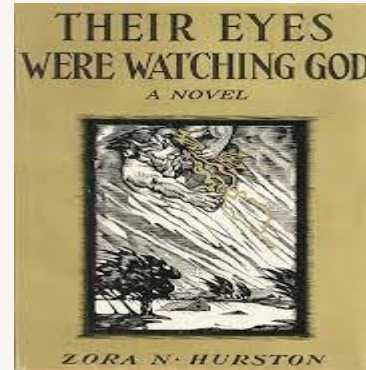
Hurston was also marginalized due to her race, gender, and class. Despite these difficulties, she persevered and continued to write, creating works that have become timeless classics. Zora Neale Hurston's contribution to black womanhood, black feminism, and African-American literature is undeniable. Her work helped to redefine the narrative of what it meant to be a black woman in the United States, and her books remain relevant today. Through her novels, Hurston gave a voice to African-American women and provided them with an opportunity to tell their stories in their own words. In doing so, she helped to create a space for black women to explore their own identities and experiences.





# Famous Book

Zora Neale Hurston is best known for her novel *"Their Eyes Were Watching God."* *Their Eyes Were Watching God* shows stereotypes, especially among African women. "Ships at a distance have every man's wish on board. For some they come in with the tide. For others, they sail forever...Now, women forget all those things they don't want to remember, and remember everything they don't want to forget" (Hurston). The sea is a symbol that men have no control over their dreams, they must wait for them to come true. Alternatively, women have control over their dreams and can shape them as they wish. Men and women perform the stereotypic roles that were prominent in the 1900's. Women were expected to empower men and men are to treat women as their property. Zora Neale Hurston shows how gender roles can impact a person's life through the story.



On this day in 1891, famed author and anthropologist **Zora Neale Hurston** was born. A leader in the Harlem Renaissance, Hurston was a revolutionary in helping to protect the rights of African Americans.

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**  
Building the Power



# Conclusion & What I have learned

Overall, Hurston's influence and legacy continue to be undervalued and misunderstood. Her work deserves to be studied, appreciated, and celebrated, and her voice should be amplified in discussions of African-American literature and culture. Despite the difficulties she overcame, she went on to become one of the century's most well-known novelists and an important figure in the Harlem Renaissance. Generations of writers, activists, and intellectuals continue to be inspired by her legacy of creativity, tenacity, and activity. Her literary style and major cultural influences were eventually acknowledged in her work after her passing.

- As this semester comes to a close, I've learnt that historically, African American women have fought a long
- battle just to have equal rights and opportunities. I now have a greater respect for black women in society thanks to
- this course. The hardships black women have faced in their fight for equality. There have been numerous powerful
- women in our culture throughout history. Sharing their experiences is extremely important. This course was great, and I
- learned a lot.



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