

Dr. Robert Gunn
Fall 2021

*****Extra Credit Assignment:
Keith Lamar (Bomani Shakur) and Dean Denis O’Hearn
Discuss Eddie S. Glaude, Jr.’s *Begin Again******

This fall, I am offering an extra credit opportunity connected to the “Mining Books” event scheduled for Tuesday, October 26, 2021, in the Blumberg Room at the UTEP Library, at 6:00 p.m. At this “Mining Books” event, Keith Lamar (Bomani Shakur), from the Ohio State Penitentiary, will be joining Dr. Denis O’Hearn, Dean of the UTEP College of Liberal Arts, via Zoom to discuss Eddie S. Glaude Jr.’s *New York Times* bestselling book, *Begin Again: James Baldwin’s America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own*. This is a rare opportunity and promises to be a fascinating and enriching discussion of Baldwin, race, and America. I encourage you to attend, even if you are not interested in pursuing the extra credit assignment. The flyer for this event, which is free and open to the public (bring friends!) is appended below.

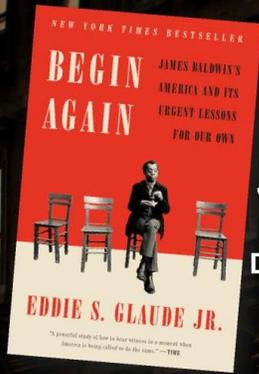
To do the extra credit assignment, you will need to attend the Mining Books event on October 26 and take careful notes. Your job will then consist of two parts: one, to write a detailed and specific summary of presentation and discussion of Glaude’s book, and of the individual perspectives advanced by the speakers in the course of their discussion of it (1-2 pages); and, two, to write a thoughtful reflection on the implications of those remarks, drawing on your reading of Glaude’s book, but also informed by your own personal understanding of American literary, cultural, and social history. How do you assess the merits of Glaude’s arguments concerning James Baldwin’s America and our own? What do you make of the speakers’ claims? What was the most important, eye-opening thing you heard at the event, and how do you assess the larger implications of that idea or perspective? What might be some points with which you disagree? Why? Attempt to substantiate your position via reference to concrete examples taken from Glaude’s book, and from American culture and history (from any period), with a special premium on topics and texts taken from our syllabus.

The breakdown of points offered is as follows: **five points** will be awarded for assignments graded at an A-minus or above; **three points** will be awarded for assignments graded in the B-minus to B-plus range; and **one point** will be awarded for assignments graded in the C-minus to C-plus range. **No points** will be awarded for efforts that fail to meet the standard of a C-minus.

**This assignment, should you wish to pursue it, will be due on Blackboard on Wednesday,
December 8, 2021, by 11:59 p.m.**

Mining Books

Discovering Books. Exploring Ideas.



Join us in-person as Keith Lamar (Bomani Shakur) from Ohio State Penitentiary and UTEP Dean of The College of Liberal Arts Dr. Denis O'Hearn discuss Dr. Eddie S. Glaude Jr.'s *New York Times* bestseller *Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own*.

October 26, 2021

6 PM in the UTEP Library

Blumberg Auditorium



The entire UTEP community and the public is invited to attend this edition of Mining Books for insightful literary exploration and free light refreshments.

Sponsored by the UTEP Department of English, the UTEP Library, Friends of the UTEP Library, and The Humanities Collaborative at EPCC-UTEP.



Questions or Need Accommodations? Please Contact Dr. Brian Yothers at byothers@utep.edu

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