Class will not meet...

• Instead, you should answer at least 2 Discussion Questions from each of the next 4 slides in addition to the Reading Response.
• This is posted on the Faculty Website as well.
“Letter from Birmingham Jail”

- What is King's response to the "outside agitator" argument?
- What is nonviolent direct action meant to accomplish, according to King? How does it do this? What characteristics do you think a society must already possess in order for nonviolent direct action to be effective?
- What role does King argue that tension plays in social change? Would you agree or disagree with his argument that it is necessary?
- What is King's response to the claim that nonviolent direct actions like sit-ins and marches, are unproductive and take attention away from what really works; namely, negotiation?
- What is King's response to the argument that nonviolent direct action is too hasty and we should instead allow the given issue to resolve itself through the proper political channels?
- State one of King's definitions of an unjust law. Is it convincing? Why or why not?
- What is King's response to the claim that nonviolence, while peaceable, leads to violence and thus should be condemned?
- What is King's response to the charge that the nonviolent movement is a form of extremism?
Introduction to *The Black Aesthetic*

- Discuss Gayle’s rather harsh criticism of black artists being perceived as American. Compare to Hughes’ statements in “The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain.” To whom are contemporary black writers speaking?
- What two elements does Gayle argue white critics wrongly associate as being new in black writers of the period? How does he show these are not new?
- What is new to the art of the Black Arts Movement, then, for Gayle?
- Compare Gayle’s criticism of white Northerners with King’s disappointment with white liberals and religious institutions.
- How, according to Gayle, should black art be judged if not by similar standards to art produced by other races and cultures?
Nikki Giovanni

- Which poem could be viewed as being devoid of racial issues? Why and how?
- Which poem seems to most closely criticize the daily difficulties of African-American life? Why and how?
- Which poem seems to best celebrate African-Americans without concern for racially charged protest? Why and how?
- Which poem is most political and timely to when it was written? Does it still have relevance to a current audience? Why and how?
- Which poem seems to argue that white people cannot understand the lives of black people? Why and how?
Carolyn M. Rodgers

• Comment on the unconventional capitalization, punctuation, and spelling in Rodgers’ poetry. What effects do those usages have on contemporary readers? Based on other texts written about and published during the Black Arts era, what effects to the features seem designed to produce?

• In what ways does the relationship between the speaker and the mother figure in Rodgers’ poems differ from the relationships between mothers and daughters in other poems of this and previous eras? How does it differ from portraits of fathers and sons?

• Discuss the two poems as representing the same mother/daughter relationship. Compare and contrast the religion in the poems and the attitudes of the speaker. Can you find any correlation between Rodgers’ mother/daughter pair and personal experience?
Reading Response

- Take any two readings from this week and discuss how they fit the feeling and characteristics of the Black Arts Movement as discussed in the book and in class last week.
  - Choose one that you enjoyed &/or found especially compelling.
  - The other should be one you were troubled by &/or found particularly difficult.