



James Baldwin: Literature and the Long Civil Rights Movement



Photo by Patrick Mitchell

Professor of English, African American and Africana Studies at the University of Kentucky, Frank X Walker is the author of seven books of poetry: *About Flight* (2015), *Turn Me Loose: The Unghosting of Medgar Evers* (2011), *Isaac Murphy: I Dedicate This Ride* (2010), *When Winter Come: The Ascension of York* (2008), *Buffalo Dance: The Journey of York* (2004), and *Affrilachia* (2000). Co-founder of the Affrilachian Poets and originator of the term "Affrilachia," he was the Poet Laureate of Kentucky in 2013-2014. "Ambiguity over the Confederate Flag" appears in *Turn Me Loose*, which students in the Dream Course are reading with *Blues for Mister Charlie* – the play James Baldwin dedicated to the memory of Medgar Evers. This event is free and open to the public.

A poetry reading by

Frank X Walker

AMBIGUITY OVER THE CONFEDERATE FLAG

In the old south we would sit on the veranda	<i>life was full of work from sunup to sundown</i>
look out over the horizon at	<i>nothing but fields of cotton</i>
the young who happily played behind	<i>children tried to pick their own weight</i>
while their mothers sang rapturous spirituals	<i>by age 13 filled 500 lb sacks and lived the blues</i>
those were good ol' days not having to use the whip was more civilized	<i>for plantation owners sharecropping and extending debt was almost more profitable</i>
	<i>than slavery</i>

Wednesday, April 19, 2017, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Mary Eddy and Fred Jones Auditorium

Fred Jones Museum of Art

555 Elm Ave • Norman, OK 73019