C&T 201 Negritude: Black Poetry Discussion Notes 26 September 2005 Prof. Helman

1. Black Woman by Senghor

-metaphor for one's country/continent
-Does love of one's country lead us to thinking it's beautiful? Or vice versa?
-colonial issues present

2. *Nerve* by Fall

-encroachment of culture
-speaker is maintaining his autonomy in the face of the encroachment
-similarities to "River Between"
-subject is a "slave" on his knees working for pay
-Dignity: being your own boss, not working for another person Not accepting outside influence

## 3. Sculpture by M'Baye

-does the perfection of the sculpture remain after it comes to life? -what exactly is the statue of? -meaning of posterity: lineage, descendants, status

## 4. When black men's teeth speak out by Ouologuem

-Satire of injustice -who is the intended audience? European or African? -a sense of passivity; he knows he will be cut open from the start -apathy used to show hopelessness of situation -poem may be a metaphor

5. *I spun a song for you... (for two flutes)* by Songhor -meaning may be simple or deep; Could be read on several levels -again, intended audience? European?

-use of mayflies to symbolize fleeting enjoyment over longer lasting beauty