AMST 355
Class and Culture
T, TH, 12:30-1:50
GHH 205
Fall Semester, 2010
Roger Williams University

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Assignment on *Samaritan*

Length: 5 pp. Typed, double spaced, (more or less)

Due: Thursday, October 14 Submitted by Blackboard.

Preview Period: Through Thursday, October 7: Also submitted through Blackboard.

I'm posting this very early. I want you to have time to think about the problem even before we discuss the book. The book discussion will begin October 5.

I want you to do two things. You may either do them separately, or you may weave them into a single narrative, depending on what is most comfortable for you

1.The central character of Samaritan is the television writer, Ray Mitchell. He makes a wonderful protagonist for our purposes because he has experienced so many different social levels in his life. Throughout the novel, he interacts with a wide variety of people, many of whom could easily be the central character in a story of their own. So what I'd like to have you do is choose any one (in one case, a group), of the characters (I've prepared a list below), and imagine the story from that character's point of view. What is that person's relationship with Ray? How would he/she interpret Ray, his actions, and motives? What does he/she want from him, or from life in general? What are his/her dreams? What are his/her challenges? (Be aware that what the character says and what the character really believes may not always be the same.) *If you wish, and are feeling especially creative, you can try writing this in the first person.* (Not required, but I love to read these).

2.Was reading this book valuable to you in any way? If so, how? If not, what about it made reading it a less than good use of your time? Would you recommend this book be used again? Why or why not?

The Eligible Characters:

- 1.   Ruby Mitchell (Ray's Daughter)
- 2.   Detective Nerese Ammons (Tweetie)
- 3.   The kids (as a group) in Ray's Class. If you use these, consider them a representative sample of kids of that age in that environment.
- 4.   Carla Powell
- 5.   Danielle Martinez, Carla's Daughter
- 6   .Claire Mitchell, (Ray's ex-wife)
- 7.   Nelson, Danielle's son, Carla's grandson
- 8.   Freddy Martinez, Danielle's partner.
- 9.   Salim El-Amin (Formerly Coley Rodgers)
- 10.   Tommy Potenza, a.k.a. "White Tom"

Dempsy, New Jersey, is fictional. It is modeled, however, upon Jersey City, a very real place. In order to give you some idea of what Dempsy might be like, I'm providing illustrations of one of the zip codes in Jersey City. I chose it because it includes a waterfront development similar to the one in which Ray Mitchell lives as well as areas similar to those where the other characters reside. Prowl around to help you "get into" the character you chose for this exercise.