

AMST 355  
Class and Culture  
M, W, F, 1:00-1:50  
GHH 208  
Fall Semester, 2012  
Roger Williams University

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Office: GHH 215  
Hours M, W, F, 11:00 - 12:00  
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### **Samaritan Paper**

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

**Due:** To Be Announced

**Preview Period:** To Be Announced.

The Preview will be Optional. I offer it for those who think they'd find it useful to get feedback before submitting a final version for a grade.

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 1

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. I encourage it.**
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"

Dempsey, New Jersey, is fictional. It is modeled, however, upon Jersey City, a very real place.